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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the
Senate's draft proposal to
grant long-term alien
workers status similar to
that of Freely Associated
States' citizens?

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Military Strike

Donald H. Rumsfeld reveals that he urged a U.S. military strike in Iraq in 2003.

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Energized Crowd

A young Google executive in Egypt is released from 12 days in secret detention.

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Grand Theft

Prosecutors say they plan to charge Lindsay Lohan with felony grand theft.

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What the CNMI Senate is offering the U.S. Congress is not something new. What our local Senate is trying to do is recommend an improved status that is supported by the public.

—House minority leader Diego Benavente

'FAS status has least impact'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House minority leader Diego Benavente said yesterday it would be better for the entire CNMI government to support the Senate's proposal to grant Freely Associated States status to long-term nonresident workers, rather than leave it up to Congress which he said may end up conferring U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status or "green card." See FAS on Page 4

First timely payroll for the year

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For the first time since 2011 kicked in, payroll will not be delayed for government employees today.

Non-critical service employees have not been getting their payroll on time since the year began, and for at least

nine times since June 2010.

Press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed yesterday that this week's on-time payroll for critical and non-critical service employees is due to the influx of cash collections brought by the Jan. 31 deadline for filing business gross revenue tax.

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PSS unveils new history book for junior high students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education and the Public School System unveiled yesterday a new history book for junior high school students that gives them a better understanding of how indigenous people lived until being arbitrarily divided by foreign powers.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan disclosed in a news briefing yesterday that the *History of the Mariana Islands to Partition*, authored by historian Don Farrell, has been in the making since 2009 when the Education Board approved publishing a history book for

See PSS on Page 4

Author and historian Don Farrell signs his latest book, *History of the Mariana Islands to Partition*, for members of the Board of Education and Commissioner Rita A. Sablan during yesterday's news briefing on Capitol Hill.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

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Fire razes van carrying man'amko; no one hurt. PAGE 3



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AFTER SITTING IDLE FOR TWO YEARS

'Mariana House may now be subject to property tax'

this property," said former resident representative and governor Juan N. Babauta.

"If we start paying tax, we will use taxpayers' money to pay for it. That's why we have to invest in it so it could pay for itself," Babauta said when asked for comment yesterday.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), and other lawmakers earlier said the government should sell or lease out the property, which they say is in a prime location near embassies in the nation's capital.

The Fitial administration has yet to decide what to do with the property.

The property has been sitting idle since it was vacated in early January 2009 by the CNMI's last resident representative to Washington, D.C. Pete A. Tenorio. That was when the 2008 federalization law gave the CNMI its first nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Babauta said during the time of his predecessor as CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C., Froilan Tenorio, there was a pending case in federal district court regarding the tax-exempt status of the property.

"When he left office, the matter was still pending. It took me almost a year before I could convince the court that Congress meant for the building to be used for official representation and should therefore be granted tax-exempt status," he said.

Babauta served as the CNMI's third resident representative to Washington, D.C. starting January 1990. He served for three, four-year terms until January 2001 when he became CNMI governor.

The Fitial administration is now working on getting the property fixed, including hiring a pest control company, before it could hire the services of an appraiser to determine the property's value.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the CNMI government spent \$300,000 to buy the property, based on information from Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, a former Finance secretary.

Babauta and his former lieutenant governor, now House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), separately said yesterday that the property was

bought for \$200,000.

Washington, D.C. tax records list the property as "E6-Foreign," and the proposed new value for 2010 is \$835,430, including the value of the land and improvements.

But because the CNMI government has yet to commission its own appraiser to assess the value of the property, officials could only estimate its current value.

Demapan said the current condition of the Mariana House is not a case of oversight or it being forgotten.

"Since the close out of the Washington Representative's Office, the administration was informed about a host of much needed repairs that need to be done before the property can be deemed as adequately rehabilitated in order to be in compliance with building code before it can be placed on the market. Once these deficiencies are addressed, then the government can acquire the services of an appraiser to determine the property value," he said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be in Washington, D.C. later this month on official business, but Demapan said that, given

the governor's tight schedule, there's no telling whether he could visit the Mariana House.

"I can't confirm that he will be able to visit the property at this time, but I'm sure that he would like to if there is an opportunity to do so," he said, adding that besides the National Governors Association meeting, Fitial would like to meet with federal officials such as those at the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Interior.

The Mariana House is located at 2121 R Street NW Washington, D.C.

Demapan said the administration has not received offers to sell or lease the property.

Public Auditor Mike Pai had said in February 2009 that the CNMI government is going to keep the house due to the unfavorable real estate market. He said it could be rented out at \$10,000 to \$15,000 a month.

The property has since been vacant and has not been maintained. Community members said this is one property that the government should not have left to rot, considering its tight financial conditions.



Babauta



Demapan

Fire razes van carrying man'amko; no one hurt

A fire of still unknown cause gutted a *man'amko* van carrying some 15 senior citizens in Tanapag yesterday afternoon. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

A video taken by KSPN News showed that some senior

citizens—who had already been moved to safety—becoming hysterical as they watched their van being engulfed by fire.

Saipan Tribune contacted the Department of Public Safety's information office for

more details, but no one answered the phone.

It was learned that the driver had parked the bus on the shoulder of the road after some of the senior citizens on board noticed smoke inside the vehicle.

'Bill to fund NMTI will ensure economy's survival'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The author of a bill that seeks to allocate a portion of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance's budget to the privately owned Northern Marianas Trade Institute defended his bill yesterday, citing the federalization law as the main reason for his bill's introduction.

Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said House Local Bill 17-39 seeks to prepare for the islands' economic survival when nonresident workers exit the Commonwealth in 2014 as required by the federalization law.

"The main purpose for this action is the implementation of Public Law 110-229 [federalization law] and the time constraint of the transition dateline. We have to be cognizant that the impact will be very detrimental, if not disastrous if we sit idly and not do anything such as setting priorities," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

HLB 17-39 proposes to allocate 25 percent of SHEFA funds to the trades institute.

SHEFA gets a \$3.1 million budget each fiscal year from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. Palacios' bill will transfer about \$775,000 of that amount to the trades institute each year for

three years.

SHEFA board chair Jose Mafnas earlier vowed to oppose the bill, saying SHEFA is already assisting NMTI scholars with \$1,000 grants for each qualified student.

Palacios believes the CNMI economy's survival depends on the private sector, which is a major source of revenue and the main contributor to the general fund.

"That's why it is imperative that we assist them by training our people so that they can fill the 'void' that might be left by the departure of nonresident workers," he said.

Palacios said positions that will mostly be affected are skilled labor and NMTI is the only institution that provides training for these services at present. By keeping this money on island, he said it will aid in the economic revival because the money will circulate within the community.

He said relying on students who are presently off-island is not an assurance the CNMI can depend on.

"What assurance do we have that those going off-island will be ready to return should the time arrives? ...Will they be back on time to replace these nonresident workers who might be affected by the act?" he asked, citing that

DPH seeks to fill 2 posts at guidance center

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez is asking the Legislature to approve the hiring of two personnel for the Community Guidance Center—positions that he described as essential to the delivery of the center's services.

Villagomez wants a joint resolution approved by both Senate and House leaderships to hire a mental health counselor and an accounting technician for the Brabu Project.

"The filling of these positions is very important to the efficient delivery of essential mental challenge services and ultimately the welfare of the CNMI community. These positions are essential employees," Villagomez told Senate President Paul Manglona and House Speaker Eli Cabrera in a letter.

According to the health chief, the two positions have been vacant since Nov. 30, 2010, and Jan. 28, 2011, respectively.

He said budgetary resources are available for the two full-

NMTI and NMC students are the only ones who will be around to fill the void.

Palacios said that classes offered at NMTI are positions that he believes encompasses most of the jobs that might be vacant once the transition period kicks in.

NMTI owner Anthony Pellegrino earlier said he intends to use the additional money to build more classrooms.

The senior citizens managed to get out from the van as the fire started to spread. After a few minutes, fire fighters arrived and put out the fire.

Rose Mondala, director of Aging Office, was seen on the KSPN video complaining why the driver still used the van to transport the *man'amko* when the vehicle was not in good condition that morning. She said the van had been brought to a shop that morning and was diagnosed

with electrical problems.

The video also showed one of the *man'amko* telling the KSPN reporter that one of their member's bag almost got burned.

Faulty electrical wiring is believed to have triggered the blaze. Arson investigators are still looking into the cause of the fire. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Alternate visa program for E-2 CNMI investor status pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) introduced yesterday a joint resolution asking the U.S. Department of State to establish an alternate visa program for qualified E-2 CNMI investor status recipients and their dependents, allowing these recipients to travel freely in and out of the CNMI.

"It's doable and practical, considering the unique circumstances in the CNMI," Sablan later said.

Sablan, a former immigration chief,

Fund, govt urged to talk about sale of Mariana House

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo urged lawyers of the NMI Retirement Fund and the CNMI government yesterday to hold talks with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on the possibility of transferring ownership of the Mariana House in Washington D.C. and two vehicles to the Fund to satisfy government's arrears that has now grown to \$317 million.

If the government agrees to transfer the Mariana House to the Fund, Govendo said he wants the Fund to get the maximum worth of the property.

"No kickbacks! I want a straight real-estate transaction," said the judge

FAS

From Page 1

"FAS status, in my belief, has the least impact on the resident population in the CNMI," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said granting eligible foreign workers FAS status, which is what the CNMI Senate plans to recommend to Congress, will provide stability to the workforce that the local economy needs.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) echoed Benavente's statement.

"I support any status that will help guide the U.S. Congress as to the type of status it could give based on our unique needs. We have to say something for Congress to consider. Congress has that authority to confer status, whether citizenship or permanent residency or others, but we as leaders should make our position known," he said.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday the Senate will finalize today its recommendation that will be presented at the last round of public hearings on Saipan, Tinian and Rota later this month.

This morning's closed-door meeting will also finalize the dates of the public hearings.

Hofsneider said Benavente and Yumul's statement was one of the major reasons why Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) tasked his Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies to initiate public hearings on the Interior recommendation to Congress last year.

"It's best that we come up with something, after we heard from the public, rather than not recommending at all to Congress," he said.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said that, while the decision to grant improved status to foreign workers rests with Congress, he supports the CNMI Senate's plan.

said House Joint Resolution 17-26 is in keeping with the intent of the federalization law "to minimize to the greatest extent practicable potential adverse economic and fiscal effects" on the CNMI.

The E-2 CNMI investor status allows foreign, long-term investors and their dependents who meet certain requirements to remain lawfully present in the CNMI through December 2014 while their immigration issues are being resolved.

Sablan said that, although these investors have been accommodated by

during a review hearing in the Fund's lawsuit against the government.

Govendo said he prefers to have the Fund do the selling of the D.C. property rather than the administration.

He said a licensed real estate broker should be tapped to perform the transaction and not "a friend of a friend of a friend."

The Mariana House has remained idle since January 2009, when the federalization law abolished the office of the CNMI's resident representative to Washington D.C., which used to occupy the building. The Fitial administration has yet to decide whether to sell or lease out the two-story building.

The resident representative's office

"It belongs to the U.S. Congress but we can certainly advise them," he said.

Benavente reminded other lawmakers that the U.S. Senate's original federalization bill included a provision granting improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

But he said the U.S. House removed this provision, with the agreement that Interior will make a report and recommendation—which it did last year.

Interior recommended to Congress to allow foreign workers who have been legally in the CNMI for at least five years to apply for long-term status under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Interior said Congress could confer U.S. citizenship, permanent resident status leading to citizenship, or FAS status.

FAS citizens can freely travel, work, and study in the U.S. and its territories.

"So what the CNMI Senate is offering the U.S. Congress is not something new. What our local Senate is trying to do is recommend an improved status that is supported by the public. If we don't recommend anything, then Congress may end up granting citizenship or permanent residency or something else that could have the most impact on our resident population," Benavente said.

After the CNMI Senate held public hearings on the Interior recommendation in June to August 2010, it came up with a draft report recommending FAS status to foreign workers who have been here for at least five years and at least 10 years.

Eligibility requirements for this status will be finalized today, for the public hearings.

Other House members do not support the Senate proposal.

"Until and only until the local U.S. citizens are employed would I then support a measure to grant any type of status to alien workers," said Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

Others like Rep. Tony Sablan (R-

the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, they are only allowed to remain within the CNMI.

"Should these investors or their dependents travel outside of the CNMI, they will then be subject to the U.S. Department of State's visa requirements for reentry into the CNMI," he said.

The freshman lawmaker said the lengthy visa processing period varies, and may sometimes take up to 90 days, hampering the foreign investors' capabilities to conduct business-related travel to and from the CNMI, as well as limiting their dependents' ability to

also has two vehicles. The administration clarified Tuesday that one of the vehicles has already been sold.

Alepuyo expressed the Fund's interest in acquiring the property and selling it to satisfy part of the government's debt to the Fund.

Govendo said that in the last review hearing on Nov. 11, 2010, he asked then Finance secretary Robert Schrack how the government can continue to pay college students scholarships when government employees suffer by not receiving their payroll.

"We are poor. We are a poor, poor country," Govendo stressed.

He said the people of the CNMI are now paying the prize for its government's "extremely poor planning."

Saipan) support an FAS status, only if these guest workers will not become entitled to benefits afforded U.S. citizens.

Benavente said there's no denying that there are community members who oppose improved status for some 18,000 foreign workers who may suddenly become eligible to vote in the local elections.

"Again, with FAS status, these foreign workers would still not be able to vote," he said.

Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said he supports an FAS status "only to fill the void to be left vacant by other foreign workers who won't be able to remain in the CNMI" when the transition period ends.

He said once there is enough local workforce to run the entire economy, then these guest workers granted FAS status should leave the CNMI.

By 2014, the nonresident population will have to be reduced to zero. Employers have to petition their foreign workers for employment-based U.S. visas, or these nonresident workers will have to exit the CNMI.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, for his part, does not support improved status for long-term foreign workers; rather, he wants an extension of the umbrella permits issued by the CNMI Department of Labor. Labor-issued umbrella permits will expire this November.

He said the extension should only apply to foreign workers whose skills are not available in the local labor pool.

Worker groups have been lauding the CNMI Senate for taking the initiative of proposing improved immigration status to long-term guest workers who will still be needed to help run the local economy, especially since there are still not enough resident workers to assume jobs held by nonresident workers.

These include nurses, engineers, architects, teachers, hotel employees, technicians, carpenters, and house helpers, among other things.

freely visit their families abroad.

He said an alternate program is necessary.

Government settlement

The House passed four bills during yesterday's session.

These include House Bill 17-131, House Draft 2, authorizing the governor to negotiate a settlement and resolution of the judgment in a building lease case, Superior Court Civil Action 97-486.

The litigation has been pending in court for 13 years, and the government's bad financial condition has prevented it from making cash payment on the judgment.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), author of the resolution, said Joaquin Manglona has indicated a willingness to consider other methods of judgment satisfaction besides cash payment and it will benefit the CNMI to allow the governor to negotiate with Manglona to resolve the matter.

PSS

From Page 1

seventh and eighth graders.

The 367-page book is the first volume of a series and was funded by a special grant from the U.S. Department of Education, amounting to \$57,000. Another \$50,000 is earmarked from the same funding source for the next volume.

PSS initially printed 5,200 copies of the book, which will also be launched in Guam next week.

Farrell said the *History of the Marianas Islands to Partition* was created in accordance with PSS benchmarks and standards for social studies and is divided into four units and 10 chapters.

The first part focuses on the islands' evolution from the geologic formation of the Marianas, biologic evolution on the islands, prehistory of the Marianas, ancient Chamorro culture, and the first contact with the West.

Other parts of the book tackle the Spanish administration where it discusses colonization, conquest, depopulation, resettlement, and the Carolinian migration, as well as the period of isolation, natural disasters, and insurrection. The last unit explores the end of the Spanish administration.

The book will have a special launching ceremony today at Aqua Resort Club at 9am, during which it will be sold at special price of \$20 apiece. A special rate will also be given to book-

House members, in passing the bill on a 17-0 vote, said the settlement method "shall be applicable to other outstanding court judgments against the Commonwealth," and the governor is authorized to settle other claims accordingly.

The House also passed floor leader George Camacho's (Ind-Saipan) HB 17-74 by a vote of 18-0, to allow the NMI Retirement Fund administrator to assess interest on overpayment or underpayment of benefits, and to make technical amendments regarding life insurance coverage.

Rep. Stanley Torres' (Ind-Saipan) HB 17-97 also passed on an 18-0 vote, to include membership from a chartered or incorporated organization representing CNMI retirees.

HB 17-34, authored by Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), also passed on a 17-2 vote. It seeks to have Rota and Tinian representation on the Health Care Professions Licensing Board.

stores and libraries. Farrell will be present to autograph copies of the book.

The first edition of *History of the Marianas Islands*, also authored by Farrell, was published in 1991.

Sablan said the new edition is the first volume of Marianas history that will be made available on the Internet. "We are hopeful that this will not only better educate the world about our islands, but also entice many to visit the Marianas after viewing the beautiful illustrations that highlight the book."

Much of history is still held within household'

Farrell believes that much of the CNMI's history is still held within the households of people in the Marianas. He said many people helped complete the first edition—from photographs to anecdotes and specific sources of information.

"This is the story of the people of Marianas, where they came from, how they came to be, how government and society have evolved over the years. I do hope that, as we progress in the production of Volume 2, people will continue to come forward and offer information about our history," he said.

Volume 2, he said, will discuss the modern history of the Marianas and will be intended for high school students.

Farrell said he looks forward to visiting public schools to speak about the new edition.

of the nature of different processing methods between the various financial institutions, there may be some slight time differences on when employees actually see their payroll posted in their respective accounts.

"Nonetheless, we expect that everyone will get paid on time this week," he said.

Payroll for non-critical service employees has been delayed at least nine times since June 2010 because of severe cash shortage. The government needs to come up with some \$4 million to meet payroll every two weeks.

Most of those affected by delayed payroll are also subject to a 16-hour cut per payroll and unpaid holidays in fiscal year 2011.

Those who have not experienced delays in payrolls are doctors, nurses, firefighters, police officers, and corrections officers, among others holding critical positions, as well as those positions funded by the federal government.

PAYROLL

From Page 1

"What's important to note, though, is that this week's issuance should not be misconstrued as an indication of normalcy. Government employees should still exercise fiscal precautions given that the government's financial woes aren't completely out of the woods just yet. At this juncture, it is still too difficult to expect that payroll will be satisfied on time when the next pay date rolls around," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

For some Capital Hill employees, this is welcome news, considering that they have not received their payroll on time since the start of the year.

Demapan said based in information he received from the Department of Finance "it is anticipated that government payroll may start posting into employees' bank accounts late Thursday."

Employees should note that because

'PSS paid \$300K for 8 retirees' pension; Santos' case resolved'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

About 20 personnel of the Public School System retired from service last year and their pension benefits were all taken cared of, including that of Antonino Santos, who had threatened to sue PSS for not remitting its share of his pension contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Education Commissioner Rita

A. Sablan and PSS finance director Richard Waldo said yesterday, that the total number of retirees includes the eight employees who retired in December 2010.

Waldo said PSS paid yesterday about \$300,000 for the December retirees, including that for 63-year-old Santos.

"We already paid for Mr. Santos' retirement and seven others. The issue has been resolved and he, along with other retirees

from PSS, will start getting their pension payments on Feb. 15," said Waldo, adding that all previous retirees have been getting their pension checks.

Sablan reiterated yesterday that the system always takes care of its employees. "When they retire, we pay their pension to ensure that they receive the benefits accordingly. So Mr. Santos will be getting his check on Feb. 15th."

Sablan pointed out that the system's employees and retirees must understand that the funds being used to pay for employer contributions to the Fund is sourced from the general fund, which is currently dealing with severe cash-flow problem.

The Fund had disclosed that PSS owes it over \$20 million in unpaid employer contributions. The amount includes fines and penalties.

Waldo explained that the unpaid employer contribution was a result of the changes in laws that mandate different employer contribution rates for PSS—from zero percent, to 11 percent, to 24 percent.

The Fund's calculation was based on the 36.77 percent actuarial rate, which Waldo described as unacceptable for PSS.

However, he said the unpaid obligation will be shouldered by

the central government because the money come from the general fund.

Waldo said PSS and the Fund have reconciled their records and agreed on the \$20 million debt. He said collection is now being negotiated by Fund officials with the administration.

"Yes, it's still in our books... but payment will be made or absorbed by the central government," he added.

Organizer preps for second diabetes forum

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Preparations are under way for the second of a six-part series of community forums that aim to discuss diabetes health in the CNMI.

The next CNMI-Wide Diabetes Health Community Forum: Highway to Better Health is slated for March 5, from 8:30am to 3pm, at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria.

Organized by the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program of the Department of Public Health, and the Ayuda Network, the forum aims to involve the "taro roots" in ad-

dressing the issue of diabetes in the Commonwealth through targeted social and behavioral strategies.

Diabetes Health Community Forum chair Malua Peter said the second forum targets residents in As Lito, San Vicente, Dandan, Koblerville, and San Antonio.

In an interview yesterday, Peter said the second forum was originally scheduled in February but had to be moved to March as they needed more time to prepare.

"We wanted to make sure that the second forum is going to be a successful event just like the first one," Peter told *Saipan Tribune*.

The first forum, held on

Nov. 13 at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, drew about 150 participants.

According to Peter, the second forum will feature a panel discussion focusing on diabetes causes, intervention and prevention.

tion. The list of panelists will be finalized soon.

Peter said there will also be exhibits and booths of various community partners of the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition.

To encourage more participants, Peter said they are also

working with the Division of Youth Services to offer child care services and possibly transportation services for parents who cannot attend because they have to look after their children.

"We are thinking of different incentives to bring more people to the forum," she said.

Peter said they will also conduct house-to-house visits in targeted villages so they can bring the forum registration to people.

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition will have another meeting on March 3. For more information, call Ayuda Network at 234-7469.

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Six CNMI reservists learn suicide intervention skills

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six Army Reserve soldiers from the CNMI participated in a suicide intervention workshop held from Jan. 25 to 26 in Guam.

Spc. Rudeinn Sablan of Tinian and Saipan Reservists Ryan Mortensen, Spc. Joseph Camacho, 1st Lt. Alvin Owens, Sgt. Philip Aldan, and Spc. James Jucutan joined some 30 soldiers who took part in the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training workshop held at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Barrigada.

Organized by the 9th Mission Support Command, the workshop is part of a proactive initiative of the U.S. Army to combat suicides and take care



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Army reservists from CNMI pose for a group photo after the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training workshop on Jan. 26 at the Army Reserve Center in Barrigada, Guam. From left, Spc. Rudeinn Sablan of Tinian; 1st Lt. Ryan Mortensen, Spc. Joseph Camacho, 1st Lt. Alvin Owens, Sgt. Philip Aldan, and Spc. James Jucutan from Saipan.

of its military men and women.

ASIST is a suicide intervention framework developed for caregivers and professionals such as nurses, physicians, and clergy who, by virtue of their position, are more often exposed to persons at risk. It involves classroom lectures and hands-on training on the ASIST model developed by Canada-based LivingWorks Education, Inc.

Before taking the course, Spc. Joseph Camacho of the 302nd Quartermaster Company did not know how to help someone who might be attempting suicide.

"The ASIST training has given me the information needed in order to make a difference in saving a life. The training teaches you to recognize signs of suicide, how to listen carefully to an individual who may be attempting to commit suicide, and

different ways that you can help them," said Camacho.

Spc. James M. Jucutan, also of the 302nd Quartermaster Company, said the course has taught him how to apply the skills he learned in real-life scenarios.

"One thing that I liked about the course was the use of role playing to see the different suicide scenarios that you can be confronted with. It caught my attention and made me really think how I can help that person who is thinking about suicide," he said.

Jucutan, who is a shower, laundry, and textile specialist with his battalion, noted that the training is particularly useful for units who get deployed as they themselves "are the only ones who got your back and if they may have thoughts of suicide, you can be that person to help them out."

CNMI Boy Scouts now focused on community projects, troop revival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Boy Scouts of America has worked out a plan to have all cub scouts, boy scouts, and adult volunteers undertake community service projects throughout the year.

Island director Cal Reyes said these projects were identified during their district committee meeting on Feb. 6.

"The Boy Scouts Committee came up with the idea of having the young scouts earn their way through necessities like uniforms and badges so that when they grow up, they'll be independent and are able to meet the challenges in life," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Reyes, the projects are also their way of giving back to the community, particularly those who have helped the CNMI Boy Scouts of America.

The community service projects are the restoration of Forbidden Island road and lookout area and other tourist sites and grounds; restoration of the Unai Dangkulu historical site adjacent to Coral Ocean Point golf course; restoration of Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce signs; assessment and recording of all eroded grounds and burned trees at beach areas from Pacific Islands Club to Pau Pau Beach and reporting them to the authority; and partnering with public agencies and community groups on public

The island director said they are also looking for more adult volunteers to supervise the troops once they are revived.

"We are encouraging and asking any community group, school or church to sponsor the cub scout packs and boy scout troops of the CNMI Boy Scouts of America," said Reyes.

To volunteer or sponsor, call membership and relationship chair Mark Birmingham at 236-2202.

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations which provides its young members a program that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

Managaha, Tinian get green flags

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Managaha's recreational beaches and dock this week as part of regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI

Marine Water Quality standards. DEQ assigned all sampled beach sites a green flag.

Tinian's recreational beaches and storm water drainage also got a green flag this week.

The division analyzed 10 samples from Managaha and 10 samples from Tinian this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

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Ex-cop in 'ice' case pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Florencio Q. Richards, a former police officer charged with "ice" trafficking in federal court, entered a guilty plea yesterday as part of a plea deal and will be sentenced on May 17, 2011.

Richards pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute "ice," distribution of "ice," and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Marilyn L. Huff accepted the plea agreement and ordered the U.S. Probation Office to submit a pre-sentence investigation report by April 11, 2011.

Richards will remain under the custody of the U.S. Marshal until his sentencing.

At the hearing, Richards admitted guilt for his actions and apologized for what he has done.

His lawyer, Mike Evangelista, told *Saipan Tribune* that his client decided that the best and most responsible course of action is for him to take full



Richards

responsibility for his conduct, put a closure to the unfortunate event, and give his family, and his still very young children, some certainty and hope for their collective future.

"In addition to accepting responsibility for his actions, Richards is very remorseful, and he is looking forward to paying his debt to society and start on his path to rehabilitation and once again become a contributing member of our island community," Evangelista said.

Richards and Evangelista hammered out the plea agreement with assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto.

As part of the deal, the U.S. government will ask the court to dismiss the charge of carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

According to Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, detectives from the CNMI Department of Public Safety's Drug Task Force and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

sives investigated the case.

The parties agree that the sentencing guidelines range is 21 to 27 months in prison after reduction for acceptance of the defendant's responsibility.

The parties agree that Richards, for his part, may argue for any sentence within or below the guidelines range.

According to the indictment, Richards and others conspired from July 2010 to July 15, 2010 to distribute "ice" in exchange for money and other things of value.

The total amount of "ice" distributed by an unindicted co-conspirator with Richards' assistance on July 15, 2010, was less than .25 grams net weight, according to the plea agreement.

Annual Valentine walk on Saturday

The Marianas Walking Association will be hosting its 10th Annual Valentine's Walk this Saturday, Feb. 12.

Association secretary Mario Espeleta said the registration is free and will start at 6am at the Carolinian Utt next to the Garapan basketball court.

According to Espeleta, the annual walk involves two courses. The short course begins from Carolinian Utt to the old Japanese tank by the Quartermaster Road and back. The longer 10K course's turning point, on the other hand, is at the bus stop at the Oleai Beach Bar and back to Carolinian Utt.

Espeleta said they will be providing free drinks and fruits as well as Valentine cookies to all participants.

2 power outages on Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled two separate power interruptions on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011, affecting the Kiya 1 and Kiya 2 feeders.

Both power interruptions are scheduled to start at 7:30am but power will be restored to the Kiya-2 feeder at 8:30am and Kiya-1, at 9:30am.

The Kiya 1 outage from 7:30am to 8:30am will affect As Terlaje, Fina Sisu, Kannat Tabla, and Airport Road. The Kiya 2 outage from 7:30am to 9:30am will affect As Lito, Koblerville, Afetnas, San Antonio, As Gonno, and Katmelo.

The Kiya-1 interruption will allow the line crew to perform general maintenance by replacing deteriorated pole hard-

ware on three double circuit primary power poles on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road.

The interruption on Kiya-2 will allow the line crew to perform vegetation clearing on Tun Herman Pan Road.

The interruptions are necessary to ensure safety for the CUC line crew as they perform maintenance on the electrical grid.

"CUC apologizes for any inconvenience these scheduled power interruptions may impose on the community and its customers. CUC is currently training its power crew to eventually work on live wire to minimize future power interruptions," CUC said in a statement yesterday. (*Saipan Tribune*)

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Ricketts, Murray	199602	Choi, Sunyung	209802	Tomokane, Elizabeth	566702
Dris, Jesusa	178607	Venus, Aida	405606	Manahane, Dena	787804
Johnson, Maria	622707	Tkel, Dolly Jean	199305	Dimaun, Oliver	646102
Badilles, Ronnie	599609	Torres, Tommy	508604	Batallones, Renato	270508
Pacayo, Alice	237805	Gao, Peichen	114805	Kerley, James David	495003
Camacho, Anthony Mendiola	168203	Alvarez, Ramond Frank	302503	Kabiriel, Patricia	987508
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DPL plans to renegotiate a new land lease deal with IBB

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta told the House of Representatives yesterday he will renegotiate with International Broadcasting Bureau an extended or new land lease agreement, shortly before the House adopted a resolution asking the Department of Public Lands to rectify the "flawed" deal.

The 25-year lease deal expired in 2006, but Babauta said IBB at the time "reluctantly refused" to renegotiate with DPL's predecessor, the Marianas Public Lands Authority.

As a result, IBB continues to pay DPL \$15,000 in annual lease rental even after the 25-year period expired in 2006.

Babauta said the \$15,000 in annual lease rental was based on IBB's own appraisal and is the rate that IBB has been paying from 2005 to 2010.

Babauta said DPL preliminary estimates show that IBB should have been paying \$24,540 to \$32,720 in annual lease. He said these figures could still change.

House members said DPL should renegotiate the agreement and seek back pay from since the lease expired in 2006.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said DPL has been losing out on IBB's low rental rate.

Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the original lease agreement's "holdover clause" is unconstitutional.

Tenorio said when IBB's 25-year lease expired in 2006, the Legislature's approval should have been sought whether to extend it for another 15 years or negotiate a new deal.

Babauta said DPL will communicate with IBB whether it wants to extend the lease for another 15 years or negotiate a new lease.

"I have compelled DPL's Real Estate Division and the legal counsel to initiate one more time a negotiation with the client. ...I agree that the holdover clause is too long. I didn't realize it's been happening for five years. As your DPL secretary, this lease is going to be renegotiated for the benefit of Northern Marianas descendants," he said during the House session yesterday morning.

The House resolution requests DPL to "officially investigate and rectify the flawed lease agreement" between DPL and IBB, and renegotiate the agreement "and seek back payment for previous years of rental at a lower than appraised rental value that IBB has been paying since the lease expired in 2006."

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 10, 1999

House may vote on garment monitor

The House of Representatives is expected to vote today on a legislation seeking the creation of an independent monitoring group for the local garment industry as well as a Senate legislative initiative proposing the establishment of a separate finance office for the three branches of the government. Senate Bill 11-98 or the CNMI Independent Garment Factories Monitoring Foundation Act of 1999, passed last week by senators, is considered crucial by local legislators in light of the growing scrutiny on the Saipan garment business partly due to the lawsuits recently filed against the industry. House Speaker Diego T. Benavente earlier has expressed support for the proposal which is seen as a respond to allegations of labor abuse leveled against the sector.

MVA cautious in China foray

The Marianas Visitors Authority has agreed to proceed cautiously in tapping the huge tourism market in mainland China to make sure that it does not create any problem to the CNMI's immigration laws. "We are studying how we can tap that market without causing any problem in the future that's why there are regulations that have to be put in place first," said Dave M. Sablan, board chairman. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio joined the meeting with Department of Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares, MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, board members Marian Aldan-Pierce, Roberta Guerrero, and Ron Sablan.

Feb. 10, 2000

DPH assures medical testing of Tanapag residents

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday assured Tanapag residents that the planned medical evaluation will push through despite uncertainty in sources of funding. A team of medical personnel from the government and the private sector will conduct a health evaluation to find out the local people's level of exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). However, the first batch of village residents who will give blood samples for PCB examination would depend on their exposure history to PCB. "Money should not be an issue. If we make it as a main problem, then we will never get things going," he said.

Bank assets reach \$571M

In what appears to be a sign of strong financial infrastructure in the Northern Marianas, bank assets have reached over \$571 million during the third quarter of last year, according to a report prepared by the Department of Commerce. Total deposits amounted to \$555 million during the third quarter of 1999, slightly up from the previous quarter's \$554 million. The 1999 Quarterly Bank Report noted that deposits during the first three months of last year reached \$529 million. Savings deposit from both the government and the private sector dropped from \$203 million during the second quarter of last year to \$191 million the following year. First quarter deposits totaled \$204 million.

Feb. 10, 2003

Online program seeks NMI students

Taking up a quality online course is neither easy nor cheap; it takes commitment and active participation from both students and the institution, according to University of Phoenix Online regional director for Asia and the Pacific Rim Jason Schrott. "People think that an online course is easy and cheap. Both of these are misnomers. To run a high quality education in an online environment that is instructor-led requires a lot of resources, and a lot of commitment from many people," said Schrott. He made the remarks when asked on issues relating to quality control and academic integrity. He said the University of Phoenix online has set up measures to address concerns such as possible cheating of online students-including plagiarism-and to check on the quality of instruction that students are getting.

CSC withdraws suit vs Babauta and NMI govt

The lawsuit against Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the CNMI government, which sought to strip the chief executive of control over the Office of Personnel Management, has been dismissed. The Civil Service Commission, which had filed the court case, requested for the lawsuit's dismissal "without prejudice," after the CSC board members voted to withdraw the lawsuit. Because the case was dismissed without prejudice, CSC chairman Vicente Sablan explained his office is not barred from filing a similar complaint if necessary. "We decided to dismiss the case without prejudice," Sablan said. "It's [settlement] is being worked out. It's still pending at the Legislature right now."

MPLT top ranked for outstanding return on investment

The Marianas Public Land Trust board of trustees' fiduciary care and prudent practices has resulted in an outstanding return on its investment at 9.1 percent over the same one-year period in which the average performance of the universe of 850 endowments was 11.9 percent in the period ending June 30, 2010, as reported on Jan. 27, 2011, by the National Association of College and University Business Officers and Common Fund Study of Endowments.

For the three-year period ending June 30, 2010, MPLT's annualized return was 3 percent while the U.S. endowments included in the survey averaged a loss of negative -4.2 percent. For the five- and 10-year period, MPLT's average performance was 4.4 percent and 5 percent compared to the average endowments' performance of 3 percent and 3.4 percent respectively, resulting in MPLT's returns as a top quartile performer for a 10-year period.

The data analyzed in the study comprises of 850 U.S. endowments representing over \$350 billion in total assets.

"The results of this study show that MPLT's consistent top performing investments should be

attributed to the trustees' use of a prudent process while implementing fiduciary standards of practice. It is the trustee's strict adherence to the fiduciary process that keeps MPLT's returns at the top of over 850 funds in the nation," said MPLT chair Phillip Mendiola-Long.

Another report by investment consultant Morgan Stanley Smith Barney reported that for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2010, MPLT earned an annual rate of return of 6.5 percent, putting MPLT at the 50th percentile of public funds included in the Wilshire Associates Public Fund Universe.

However, for the three-year period, MPLT's annualized return of 3.6 percent placed MPLT in the top 5 percent of public funds where the 5th percentile fund earned 2.6 percent. MPLT is again placed on the top 5 percent of public funds with an annualized return of 6.3 percent compared to 5.6 percent for the five-year period.

The Wilshire Public Fund Universe comprises 140 plan sponsors that represent \$394 billion in total assets with an average plan size of \$2.81 billion and median plan size of

\$102.8 million.

"MPLT trustees are extremely proud of our performance and our top quartile rating with two different industry reports. Our top nationwide ranking is a remarkable feat considering our

investment portfolio is heavily defensive and conservative in nature. The makeup of our investment portfolio is driven by the requirements of our beneficiary, who at this point requires as much income producing

investments as possible. This investment position prevents MPLT from partaking in a lot of the growth in the stock market but also prevents us from being hurt by its large losses," said Mendiola-Long

MPLT held its election of officers on Friday, Feb. 4, 2011, with Alvaro A. Santos chosen as chairman of the board of trustees, Melchor J. Mendiola, vice chairman; and Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero, treasurer. (PR)



Mendiola-Long

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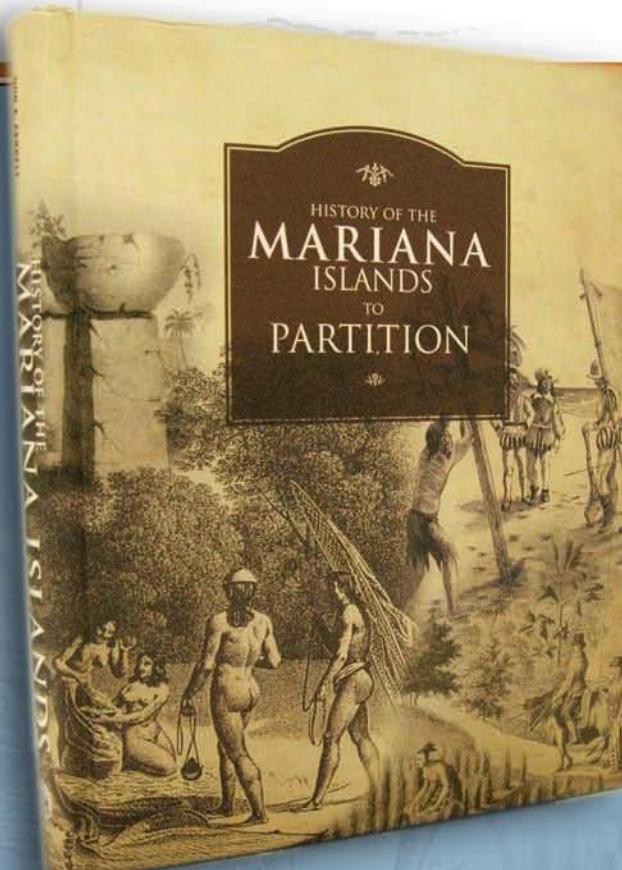
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EDITORIAL

Widening battle lines between 'clean,' 'dirty' energy

During the State of the Union address, President Barack Obama challenged the nation to invest in clean-energy technologies so the U.S. would "out-compete" and "out-innovate" the rest of the world.

Indisputably, this country needs less polluting and more efficient energy sources to make the critical transition from fossil fuels to the 21st-century technologies needed to keep the nation economically strong and competitive. The president was wise to highlight it.

Unfortunately, he chose a way that further widens battle lines between so-called clean and dirty technologies in an increasingly unproductive ideological clash that shuts down reasonable compromises and meaningful investment in the steps this nation must take to become more energy diverse and secure.

While the president essentially pledged the government to fund innovative energy research, he did so by demonizing oil companies. This plays to his political base, but it makes no pragmatic sense. Oil companies are a necessary part of the nation's energy present and, along with new alternative technologies, must form part of the future energy solution. Even if you think it's a good idea, his mocking promise to end \$4 billion a year in subsidies to the oil industry to redirect those funds into alternative energy subsidies doesn't begin to carve out a middle ground for a comprehensive national energy plan.

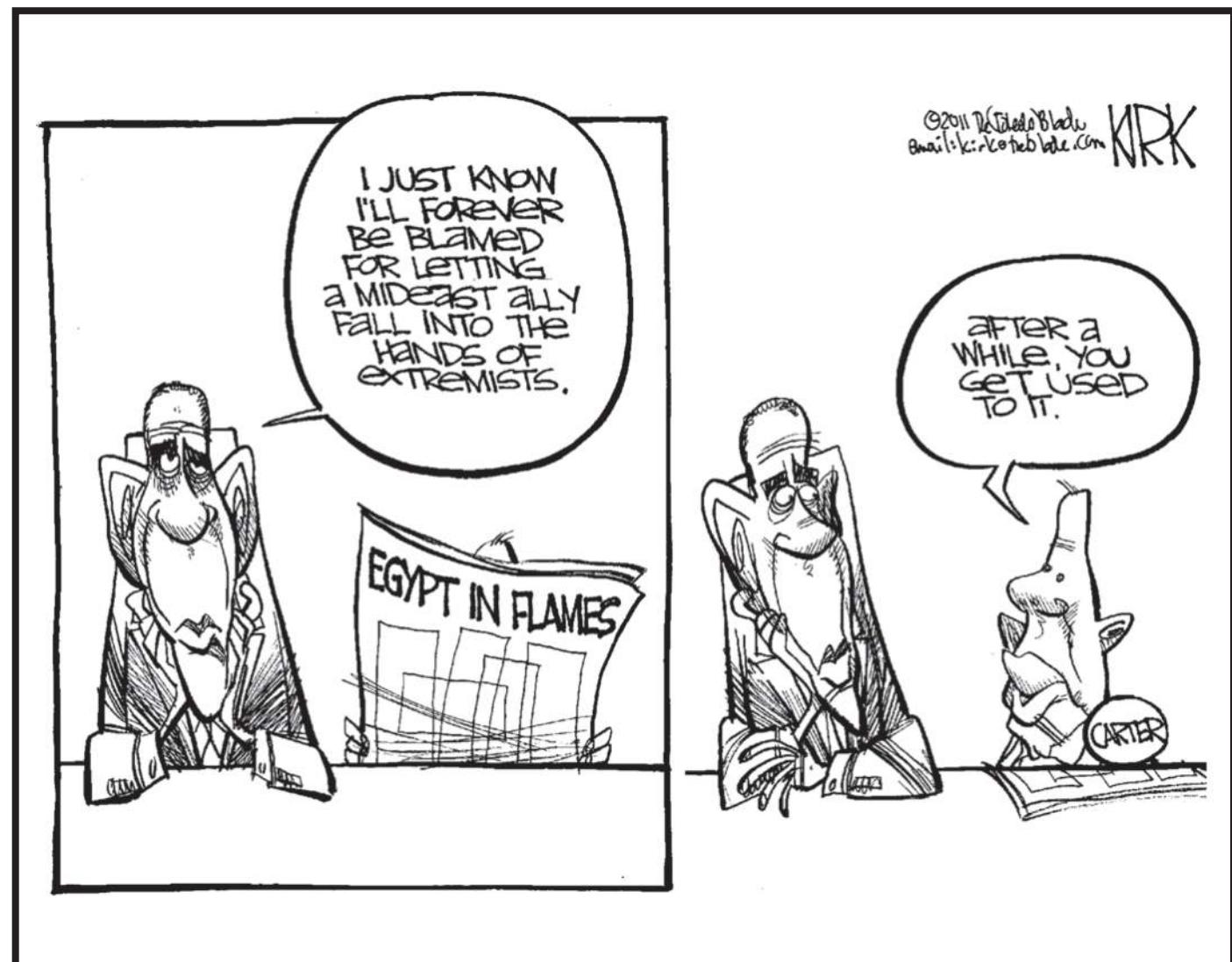
And there is just as much antipathy from the environmental community, some of whose members contend that natural gas and "clean coal" aren't really clean because both are fossil fuels and that nuclear energy isn't clean because waste disposal remains problematic. By that standard, are electric vehicles—the president wants 1 million on the streets by 2015—really clean, when their generating sources aren't?

Such myopic debates have caused comprehensive energy legislation to die repeated deaths in Congress. And it doesn't help the nation's energy picture when the president sends mixed messages to the oil industry—first announcing support for offshore drilling last spring, then axing new exploration leases from the Interior Department's next five-year plan.

Oil and natural gas must be part of a national energy strategy, as well as nuclear energy and cleaner technologies. As a nation, we must recognize that the possible can't become the casualty of the perfect. If it does, we'll never create the critical mass and targeted purpose necessary for a truly significant transformation in the way we think about, produce and use energy.

America's energy habits and economic insecurity will not improve without a national commitment and bold leadership from the White House and Congress. The country should be in a must-win dash to secure its energy future. Unfortunately, we remain stuck in the starting gate.

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Pedagogy of history

In any field of knowledge, ideology, theology, and idiosyncrasies tails the knowledgeable; peer-review occurs in any scientific field of endeavor to establish standard "knowledge base" and define the DBs parameters so that dialogue and discourse among practitioners can sensibly occur. Historical writing is not idealized journalism aimed at neutral objectivity. Like all knowledge, historical accounts are creatures of the mind and subject to the limits and possibilities imposed by the knowing tool.

The practice of historical accounts ropes the byproducts of tradition, reformulates them "to make sense." The sense of any given time is considered the prevailing paradigm of a period and that is why we often categorize times and eras by their characteristic, e.g., ancient, medieval, modern, post-civilization, etc.

I think for instance that the prevailing ethos of our time is secular versus religious, urban versus rural, and scientific versus mythological. The secular is not necessarily anti-spiritual, nor the urban simply the city since "cityified country" is fashionable, and science creates its own mythology while the mythological operates as science (cosmology and astrology for instance) in its place. The categories are not useful for their precision as for their holding convenience and discarded when no longer fitting.

So what has this got to do with the history of the Northern Mariana Islands and Don Farrell's revision of his 1991 text? Well, if you read this before 9am, you have two hours to find out as PSS launches the 2011 edition at Aqua Resort until 11am, and while there, you can pick up an autographed copy of his book before someone seduces Don's signing arm with a lunch martini, or, God help us, a Cuba Libre!

Back to history. As befitting our era, the *search for meaning* (Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl's title of his spirit wrenching book) has come to be modern mind's preoccupation, and to be confronted by a revised textbook and the teaching of its content to our young, the question of what it all means crashes like a windward wave on Kagman's shore.

In the late '70s, while living in Chicago, we spent an hour at the Art Institute on Michigan Ave. where a copy of Picasso's *Guernica* was on display. A dozen young students accompanied by an adult walked to the painting and immediately, one of the young folks asked, "But what does it mean?"

The chaperon replied, "Picasso's painting IS what he means. The question is, what do you see?" Then she launched into a series of questions of what folks saw—colors and forms, and if they hear anything ("Yes, a bomb just exploded," replied one), smell anything ("It stinks!"), taste anything ("Yuk!"), and if they could touch it, what would they feel? From there she segued into the emotional responses the children had, and then moved into the question of meaning. ("There's a little flower on the right

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



side; I see hope," a bright-eyed doe opined.) By then, the question of what Picasso meant with *Guernica* was less important than what the students discovered of themselves after appropriating their sense and emotional experience with it. Which is to say, what Farrell writes is important, but more important is what one says after encountering his narrative.

Today's classroom pedagogy follows a greenhouse model of growth akin to the method described in the foregoing. The astute pedagogue goes one step further. She inquires what imperative (students do, can do, or need to do) their indicative responses leads, nay, drives them to do. (The chaperon, after asking her imperative question, concluded by reading the Institute's note on Spain's republican town Guernica used for target practice with Franco's consent by the infant German Luftwaffe pre-WWII.)

Much of this step is skipped by the public school system and leaves the question to be raised by either the students' families or their religion. Not this pedagogue. As they say in the aisles of Joteten, "Why advertise if you are not going to make a sale?" or on the bleachers by the gym, "Why bother with the mound if you are not going to pitch?"

This begs the question, "Why is it important to rehearse the history of a people whose significance to the globe could merely be the unwary hosting of the Manhattan Project that exploded our way into the nuclear age?" One can ask Don that at today's Aqua Resort book launch. One might get a succinct answer, or better, walk out with a book, but more importantly, it is a question for everyone living under the sovereign flag of the CNMI to ask. (CNMIGov might consider asking themselves the same first; PSS requires teachers to be conversant on NMI history.)

Jane Mack once lamented after an AMP gathering that would-be immigrants would not harm their cause if they learned to sing the national and Commonwealth anthems. It would be well for Bonnie Sagana and Rabby Syed, the workers organizations, Greg Cruz and Cinta Kaipat of the indigenous ones, to familiarize themselves with Farrell's book and make that a topic of conversation while milled around the dart board at the local sports' bar. What sayeth thou, *muchachos y muchachas*, ooops, I meant, *compañeros*?

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ideas to improve the strategic position of NMC

Over the years I've collected ideas from my work in the trenches with students, faculty, staff, and from working with business owners that would benefit Northern Marianas College. As president, I would gather additional ideas by meetings with internal and external stakeholders and then prioritize the best ones to implement and achieve shared goals. If politics could be minimized, and the college board, administration, personnel, legislators, and community were focused on key goals, I believe our enrollment would substantially increase and NMC would become a greater asset to the CNMI.

NMC is performing far below its potential, but through a concerted effort combined with strong leadership to achieve strategic goals it will eventually: 1) become a critical resource for the CNMI community; 2) develop a solid reputation in the Pacific Rim and become a vital partner with other educational institutions to educate and train their students; 3) expand its programs to serve the needs of more local individuals and entities; 4) develop other profit centers and revenue sources that allow NMC to expand; and 5) become financially less dependent on the government.

The following are just a few of the many ideas to improve the strategic position of NMC and allow it to achieve the above objectives:

■ Develop a track degree program that would allow individuals working full-time to complete course work after working hours and going only two nights per week. Two courses would be taken in a nine-week period to complete the required 45 hours. This would allow students to complete the necessary hours to qualify for financial assistance, and to graduate with a cohort group in about two years. The program would appeal to individuals working full-time or part-time, individuals with small children who have difficulty with day-care during the day, or anyone else who has trouble arranging their schedule to remain a full-time student. This idea has already been developed, but not pursued and implemented.

■ Develop a partnership with quality institutions to offer a bachelor's degree in business, criminal justice, or other areas that best serve the students and community. Ideally, the university partners would accept all of the credits from NMC and would allow students to seamlessly transition to their own institution if students wanted to finish their degree at their university. There are several schools that currently accept all of NMC's credits, but the arrangement needs to be formalized and then promoted.

■ Work closely with businesses to prepare a program that would best prepare displaced local workers to transition from the private sector to the public sector. Also, have a short training program that would teach basic job skills needed to succeed at work. The Northern Marianas Trades Institute has ably taken over the role once performed by NMC; however, the college could work more closely with NMTI and develop non-competing training programs that focus on high technology trades such as CAD, movie production, sound editing, etc. (NMC currently has a nearly-completed sound studio that is being used as a warehouse for whale bones and books.)

■ Contact larger government or business organizations and offer courses or a degree program tailored to their needs. This could also be a certificate program that their staff could earn quickly, or it could be a program that would give graduates a hiring advantage. It could be a "college without walls" that would have the instructors going to the organization's facilities and teaching courses on-site and at times most convenient to the individuals. This would allow many more courses to be taught without using NMC's buildings or resources.

■ Develop partnerships with Korean, Chinese, and/or Japanese colleges to allow students to study at NMC for a semester to develop their language skills and interact with U.S. citizens. This could be reciprocal, in that we could also send local students to their schools to study abroad for a semester and gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the country. These students could take a language course for a semester to hone their language skills while they are there.

■ Develop a stronger ESL program that attracts individuals from other countries who want to perfect their English. This would include our regular semester-long courses, or it could include intensive courses that are taught for credit. This would be a total immersion course lasting 3-4 weeks for someone with a basic understanding of English, or it could be a 6-9 week course for those with little English-speaking ability. Such a program would also be attractive to businesspeople who are not pursuing a degree, but want to learn English.

■ Create an International Student Office that has the mission to serve international students so that their transition, studies and graduation from NMC is a rewarding and positive experience. This would not only assist current international students, but would en-

By RIK VILLEGAS

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Rik is applying for the position of president at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



courage positive word-of-mouth promotion for NMC to further increase enrollment.

■ Hire professional advisors to increase retention and provide greater support to students. They are busiest at the beginning and end of the semester, so during the middle of the semester, they would be utilized to work with the high schools to provide students with guidance, career advice, and plan for their future academic goals. The advisors would more than pay for their salaries by improving retention and helping build strong relationships with the school administration and teachers.

■ Develop more online courses and create an online degree program that caters to Tinian and Rota students. These courses would also be attractive to many local residents living in the U.S. because the cost is less per credit hour than other online institutions and they could get an associate degree in liberal arts and then focus on a bachelor's degree at a local university. This idea alone could significantly increase enrollment and revenue without a correlating increase in cost and infrastructure expansion because students could complete courses from their laptops in the comfort of their homes.

In order for these ideas to become reality, NMC must become more customer-focused and develop strong partnerships with local, U.S., and international entities. These ideas, if implemented, could have a significant impact on the college; however, research and planning are needed to determine their viability and estimate the economic and social impact. My general estimate is that enrollment would increase from as little as 50 percent to as much as 100 percent within the next two years. More importantly, it would reposition the college as a vital resource for the CNMI, improve morale, increase retention, and stabilize the financial situation of Northern Marianas College.

Stop scapegoating immigrants

By ANGELA TRUDELL VASQUEZ
PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

The scapegoating of immigrants must stop.

In times of economic discontent, immigrants have often faced a backlash. But immigrants have been crucial to our country since its founding and often do work that no one else would.

Still, the push against immigrants is gaining strength.

Following on the heels of Arizona's attempt to make police question anyone they suspect is illegal, 25 other states are considering similar bills. These are likely to pass in Georgia, Mississippi, Oklahoma and South Carolina, and they could pass in a dozen or so other states.

What's more, several states—Arizona, Georgia, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and South Carolina—are trying to enact laws that would deny citizenship to children of immigrants who came here illegally.

Dismally, some members of Congress are taking aim at the Constitution itself. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., and Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., introduced legislation in late January to amend the 14th Amendment to deny the birthright of citizenship. Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, from my home state, also favors such legislation, I was horrified to discover.

Ours is a nation of immigrants. We should honor our openness and diversity, not curse it.

And we should not be in the business of breaking up families. The drive to inspect everybody's papers who might "look" like an immigrant will end up not only violating a lot of people's civil liberties, it will also end up needlessly separating parents from their children.

Finally, states can't afford to follow Arizona's lead on immigration or they too will be facing costly lawsuits and economic sanctions from people who would otherwise spend time or money in their state.

Growing up, I thought this was the land of opportunity. I thought that if you just worked hard enough, you could achieve anything.

But years ago, when some undocumented English students of mine asked me if I thought they would be able to achieve the American Dream, I replied that with lots of hard work and some luck...maybe.

Today, I couldn't give them even that much hope. And that's a shame.

We, as a country, cannot turn our backs on who we are.

Angela Trudell Vasquez is a writer for Progressive Media Proj-

ect, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine. Readers may write to the author at: Progressive Media Project, 409 East Main Street, Madison, Wis. 53703; e-mail: pmproj@progressive.org; Web site: www.progressive.org.

Letter to the Editor

Saying goodbye to Auntie Mary Aldan

San Antonio Parish lost a very dedicated, devoted, and respected woman by the name of Auntie Mary Nakatsukasa Aldan. What a coincidence; her untimely passing away came at a time when Our Lady of Fatima's statue is visiting the CNMI.

Auntie Mary, as she is very well known to many of us, will be standing at the front of the altar as the commentator to lead us pray the Angelus before the Mass. Every Tuesday, she will lead the San Antonio prayer prior to the Mass. On Wednesday, she will either lead or guide the children pray the Perpetual Help Novena. Immediately following the Perpetual Help Mass, Auntie Mary will be in the sacristy to lead the Legion of Mary in their weekly prayers. Her knowledge in virtually all church activities is a prime example of her devotion and dedication.

Every Sunday morning, she will come as early as 5am to open the doors of the church, turn on the lights, the air conditioners, light the candles, bring out the wine and host, find lectors to read and many more, to name a few. However, before she starts doing any of the above, Auntie Mary will first go to the Blessed Sacrament and spend at least an hour praying.

Auntie Mary served our parish as the C.C.D coordinator for more than a decade, was involved in other ministries such as the Legion of Mary, Christian Mothers, Lectors and Commentators, Eucharistic Lay Minister, Nino Leader that brought the baby Jesus to our homes during the Christmas season, and led the Stations of the Cross prayers during the season of Lent.

Following the death of her husband, Auntie Mary chose to follow the Lord in serving San Antonio Parish Church. Every Saturday, she will be at the church very early in the morning to meet

and greet the C.C.D. students and prepare them to receive the Sacrament of First Communion, Confirmation and couples to received the Sacrament of Matrimony, something that she dedicated her life until a few months prior to her death.

Auntie Mary is survived by her three wonderful daughters: Dee, Helen and Velma, together with numerous grandchildren and we hope and pray that someone in her family will follow their mom's footsteps.

Prior to her death, Auntie Mary shared with me how her health had affected her coming to church daily. Then again, sometimes in October 2010, while in the church sacristy, Auntie Mary shared with me for the first time her battle with cancer. After a while, her presence at the church began to be numbered as her health worsened. Then come Christmas and the New Year 2011 and Auntie Mary never again set foot at San Antonio Church.

Auntie Mary's contributions to San Antonio reminded me of the saying, "There are many more who wanted to serve, but only a few were chosen," and I am sure that Auntie Mary was one of those few chosen ones. Although Auntie Mary will be physically missed, her spirits will remain in our hearts for years to come. Auntie Mary is a role model to all the mothers in the CNMI for her compassion, dignity and dedication to San Antonio Parish Church and with this we ask our patron saint, San Antonio de Padua, to accompany you in your journey to eternal life.

Sen dankulu na si yu'us ma'ase yan adios and may you rest in peace.

Herbert S. Del Rosario
San Antonio, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 85° ▼ 77°	▲ 85° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Palau	Rain ▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms ▲ 86 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms ▲ 83 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Rain ▲ 83 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Showers ▲ 88 ▼ 78
Majuro	Thunderstorms ▲ 83 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 37 ▼ 18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 52
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 69
London	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 47
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 44
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲ 77 ▼ 66
Miami	Showers	▲ 81 ▼ 64
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 27 ▼ 17
Osaka	Showers	▲ 42 ▼ 36
Paris	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 43
Pusan	Ice	▲ 45 ▼ 25
Rome	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 42
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 46
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 33 ▼ 17
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 44 ▼ 37
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 33 ▼ 26

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:05 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet
5:34 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.9 Feet
11:37 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
7:00 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:44 AM	6:19 PM	Today	10:50 AM	11:56 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM	Friday	11:34 AM	
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM	Saturday	12:12 PM	12:49 AM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM	Sunday	1:14 PM	1:43 AM
Monday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM	Monday	2:11 PM	2:39 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

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Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010			
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
SAIPAN-GUAM		GUAM-SAIPAN	
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)		NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN	
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)		OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN	
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)		BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN	
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)		SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN	
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)		SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN	
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)		BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN	
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)		MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN	
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/713	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893</td			

Fitial lauds positive impact of fiscal stabilization fund

The Fitial administration said yesterday that the CNMI ARRA Office has successfully completed its fourth quarter of reporting under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.

The SFSF continues to make a tremendous impact for both the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College, especially in the areas of job creation/retention and infrastructure. The Public School System this quarter through the educational jobs fund was able to retain 798 school-based jobs including teachers, teacher aides, principals, counselors, and school support staff. PSS was also able to hire 92 new teachers and counselors as well as an A&E firm that helped to finalize 40 repair, renovation, and modernization projects.

Meanwhile, the Northern Marianas College was able to retain 12 ARRA-funded positions this quarter while creating five new positions. NMC has also been able to put out one Request for Proposal along with four Invitations to Bid for new surveillance cameras, improving campus security, and replacing the current campus computers, improving campus technology.

CNMI ARRA state lead Michael J. Ada said: "I am pleased with the cooperative efforts between my office, the Public School System, and the Northern Marianas College in ensuring that these funds are expended in the most expedient manner possible and in accordance with all the terms and condi-

tions of the grant."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was elated to note the tremendous progress indicated in the latest report and looks ahead to continuing the trend of maximizing these types of funds that are made available to the territories.

"All these positive changes could not be made possible without the hard work of the CNMI ARRA Office, PSS, NMC, the Department of Finance, and the Executive Branch. The commitment demonstrated by all these agencies validates the importance of education to our local community. Although we have seen positive change, we still have a lot of work ahead of us," noted Fitial.

Amid the unprecedented economic hardship facing the CNMI community, the \$44.3 million provided by the SFSF has gone a long way to not only stabilize the Public School System and Northern Marianas College, but it has enabled both institutions to make advancements toward the future. The recent awarding of 1,500 laptops to the Public School System's middle school and secondary students has helped to bridge the gap between the students in our remote location with information and technology that previously was not readily available. The Northern Marianas College will also see a boost in their technology infrastructure with the awarding of their current ITB for computer replacements. (*Office of the Governor*)

Shirley's Football Club donates soccer balls to school

The Shirley's Football Club donated 10 soccer balls to the Oleai Elementary School on Feb. 5, 2011, during the club's first get-together party at the grounds of the school.

More than 50 youth players showed up with their parents for the Youth Football Spring League registration.

The soccer ball donation made the get-together more meaningful and was an apt welcome to the league, which will open on Feb. 26.

A grateful James Sablan, Oleai's vice principal, accepted the donation from Shirley's Football Club president Susan Macario. With Macario was NMIFA president Jerry Tan and Shirley's Football Club general secretary Puy Macario.

In a brief speech, Sablan said he is happy to receive the soccer ball donation and that the school will continue with its partnership with the Shirley's Football Club, which has been instrumental in increasing the students' awareness of the sport.

Club president Macario, for her part, said she is very grateful to Oleai Elementary School for providing the club its home, where youth players can do



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Football Club president Susan Macario, second from right, hands over 10 soccer balls to Oleai Elementary School vice principal James Sablan, second from left. With Macario is NMIFA president Jerry Tan, right, and Shirley's Football Club general secretary Puy Macario.

children of CNMI and create a bigger impact through the sport of football," said Macario.

Shirley's Coffee Shop has been a staunch supporter of the sport and the benefits and values it bring to the younger set. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW11-IFB-003

CONSTRUCTION OF TWO PAVILIONS AT CAPITOL HILL PARK, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Two Pavilions at Capitol Hill Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

The project package will be available on or after February 10, 2011 at DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certificate (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on March 02, 2011, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at Capitol Hill Baseball Park, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 07, 2011 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division. 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW11-IFB-003**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of the sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time March 14, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time March 14, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of the sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 14, 2011 and must be received no later than March 23, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required numbers of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, March 28, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bid will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on March 17, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen percent (15% of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid Security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulation Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for the contract greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time and completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (**120**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per working day for delay beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAM
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director of Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID ITB11-GOV-050

Tier II Testing Services for the Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids to engage services of a qualified environmental testing firm to perform a Tier 2 sampling and analysis to determine NMOC (non-methane organic compound) concentration at the existing Puerto Rico Dump, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available Friday, February 4, 2011 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. No fee for the project package will be assessed.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be no Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project. Bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bids. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m., ChST, on February 14, 2011 to Mr. John Reyes of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "**ITB11-GOV-050**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, February 22, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, February 22, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 22, 2011 and must be received no later than March 1, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. ChST, March 1, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m., ChST, on February 22, 2011. Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Business

Government: No electronic flaws in Toyotas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Electronic flaws weren't to blame for the reports of sudden, unintended acceleration that led to the recall of thousands of Toyota vehicles, the government said Tuesday.

Some of the acceleration cases could have been caused by mechanical defects—sticking accelerator pedals and gas pedals that can become trapped in floor mats—that have been dealt with in recalls, the government said.

And in some cases, investigators suggested, drivers simply hit the gas when they meant to press the brake.

"We feel that Toyota vehicles are safe to drive," declared Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

The investigation bolstered Toyota's contentions that electronic gremlins were not to blame and its series of recalls—

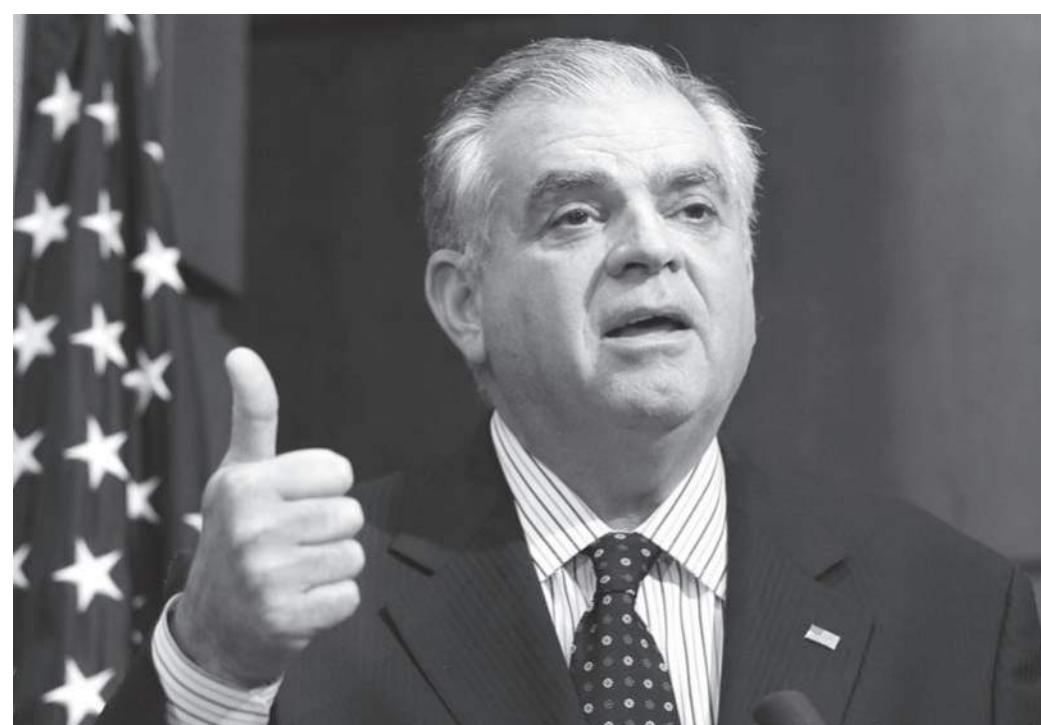
involving more than 12 million vehicles globally since fall 2009—had directly addressed the safety concerns.

Transportation officials, assisted by engineers with NASA, said the 10-month study of Toyota vehicles concluded there was no electronic cause of unintended high-speed acceleration. The study, launched at the request of Congress, responded to consumer complaints that flawed electronics could be the culprit behind complaints that led to Toyota's spate of recalls.

Recalls to fix sticking accelerator pedals, gas pedals that became trapped in floor mats, and other safety issues have posed a major challenge for the world's No. 1 automaker, which has scrambled to protect its reputation for safety and reliability. Toyota paid the U.S. government a record \$48.8 million in fines for its handling of three recalls.

Toyota said the report should "further reinforce confidence in the safety of Toyota and Lexus vehicles" and "put to rest unsupported speculation" about the company's electronic throttle control systems, which are "well-designed and well-tested to ensure that a real world, uncommanded acceleration of the vehicle cannot occur."

Toyota reported a 39 percent slide in quarterly profit earlier Tuesday but raised its full-year forecasts for earnings and car sales. The financial results and government report boosted



Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood speaks about the Toyota recalls, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, at the Transportation Department in Washington. AP

shares of the automaker on Wall Street by more than 4 percent, to close at \$88.57.

Analysts said the report would help Toyota's reputation but the company would still need to work hard to regain its bulletproof image of reliability. Toyota was the only major automaker to see a U.S. sales decline last year at 0.4 percent.

"This is really something that is going to take years and years to recover," said Rebecca Lindland, director of automotive research with consulting firm IHS Automotive.

Federal officials said they

thoroughly examined the acceleration reports and could not find evidence of an electronic problem. Instead, investigators with the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration said the evidence showed that cases in which owners complained about ineffective brakes were most likely caused by "pedal

misapplication," in which the driver stepped on the accelerator instead of the brakes.

Many of the complaints involved cases in which the vehicle accelerated after it was stationary or at very low speed.

LaHood said NASA engineers "rigorously examined" nine Toyotas driven by consumers who complained of unintended acceleration. NASA reviewed 280,000 lines of software code to look for flaws that could cause the acceleration. Investigators tested mechanical components in Toyotas that could lead to the problem and bombarded vehicles with electro-magnetic radiation to see whether that could make the electronics cause the cars to speed up.

Electronic problems can include buggy software, circuitry influenced by electrical interference and electrical shorts. The problems are often difficult to spot and can surface when combined with environmental factors like a blast from a heater vent or moisture from the road.

Employers could face higher taxes for jobless aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—Employers could face higher taxes in 2014 under an Obama administration budget proposal designed to help states hard hit by the recession and the weak recovery to refill their unemployment insurance funds and repay money borrowed from the federal government.

The proposal would give states the choice of increasing tax payments from businesses, altering their benefits or a combination of both.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the administration's plan "would help states make up for the shortfalls they have and give them time to rationalize what they offer and how they pay for it."

Businesses would be the most likely to be affected by the increase, but some economists say workers could also feel the change if businesses pass on the costs of the tax to their employees through wage freezes or smaller pay raises.

The administration plan would increase the income level that is subject to unemployment insurance taxes from \$7,000 to \$15,000. The federal tax rate used for unemployment insurance would be cut in half,

meaning the federal government would not see an increase in revenue from the adjustment.

But states would be allowed to use the new income level to raise more money from employers. Congress would have to approve the recommendation.

Business organizations recoiled at news of the proposal. The National Federation of Independent Business, which represents mostly small business operators, said that putting off a potential tax increase to 2014 would still affect decisions that employers make now.

"When you're a small business owner and you're thinking about long-term business decisions—hiring a worker is one decision, keeping a worker on is another—and you see in a few years that your costs are going to go up, that inhibits your decision," said Chris Walters, manager for legislative affairs at NFIB.

Unemployment insurance programs are run by state governments and are paid for by the state and federal governments through a tax levied on employers. States determine their benefit amounts and eligibility. Unemployment benefits vary from state to state.

Rising unemployment has placed such a burden on states that 30 of them owe the federal government \$42 billion—money they borrowed to meet their unemployment insurance obligations.

Three states already have had to raise taxes to begin paying back the borrowed money. More than 20 other states likely would have to raise taxes to cover their unemployment insurance debts.

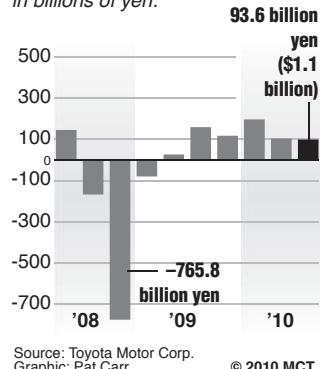
Under federal law, such tax increases are automatic once the money owed to the federal government reaches a certain level. The Obama administration proposal, however, would halt those automatic increases in 2011 and 2012. States also would not be required to pay interest during those two years on the money they owe the government.

"It's not a fair trade off, to say that no tax increases in the next two years and then expect a huge tax increase in 2014," Walters said.

Still, the proposal raises the prospect of business tax increases in 2014, just as President Barack Obama is trying to court business leaders with pledges of removing uncertainty from the private sector.

TOYOTA

Profits for the world's biggest automaker slid in the quarter ending Dec. 31, 2011. Quarterly earnings, in billions of yen:



BUSINESS BRIEFS

ICE reviewing more Chipotle workers' documents

DENVER (AP)—An immigration review of Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc.'s workers has spread to 60 of its restaurants in Virginia and the nation's capital, the Denver-based chain said Tuesday. Chipotle fired hundreds of workers in Minnesota after Immigration and Customs Enforcement reviewed employees' I-9 forms last year and found some with "suspect documents." The I-9 forms prove whether employees are eligible to work in the United States. Workers who couldn't clear up questions were dismissed. Spokesman Chris Arnold wouldn't disclose exactly how many workers were fired but said Chipotle has 50 restaurants and about 1,200 employees in Minnesota.

McDonald's sales top expectations; Europe stronger

OAK BROOK, Ill. (AP)—McDonald's Corp. reported a 5.3 percent rise in January sales at locations open more than a year, giving credit

to its McCafe hot chocolate, Chicken McNuggets and the addition of oatmeal to the menu. A strong gain in Europe, the fast-food chain's largest region, made up for a relatively weak sales gain in the U.S. That topped the average forecast from analysts of 4 percent, according to FactSet Research.

More charges announced in NY insider trading probe

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal authorities revealed charges Tuesday against three hedge fund portfolio managers and a hedge fund analyst, describing a paper-shredding, flash drive-destroying panic that ensued when they thought they faced the scrutiny of investigators. The two new arrests and the announcement of two guilty pleas expanded a federal crackdown on insider trading that masks itself as legitimate market research. The case raised the number charged in the probe to 12. The Securities and Exchange Commission said the conspiracy earned more than \$30 million in illegal profits.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

12,233.15
+71.52
+0.59%

S&P

1,324.57
+5.52
+0.42%

NASDAQ

2,797.05
+13.06
+0.47%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	0.9834
British Pound	0.6221
Canadian Dollar	0.9896
Chinese Yuan	6.586
Euro	0.7323

Hong Kong Dollar 7.7839

Indian Rupee 45.305

Indonesian Rupiah 8918.25

Japanese Yen 81.931

Malaysian Ringgit 3.0335

Philippine Peso 43.3988

Singapore Dollar 1.2714

South Korean Won 1104.675

Swiss Franc 0.9584

Taiwan Dollar 28.9215

Thailand Baht 30.695

Nation

Rumsfeld reveals prewar Iraq strike plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Pentagon chief Donald H. Rumsfeld reveals in his new book that he urged a U.S. military strike on a suspected chemical weapons site in northern Iraq in 2003, and that he wanted the attack timed to coincide with Colin Powell's address to the U.N. Security Council making the case for war.

In his memoir, "Known and Unknown," Rumsfeld wrote that the Joint Chiefs supported a strike, based on what Rumsfeld called extensive but not conclusive CIA evidence that the site housed an underground facility for testing chemical weapons. He called it a "fairly sizeable terrorist operation."

The prewar attack never happened, although the site was struck in the opening days of the war that President George W. Bush launched in March 2003, about six weeks after Powell's U.N. speech. The U.S. never found substantial evidence of an active Iraqi program to produce weapons of mass destruction, but Rumsfeld believed that the site near the Iranian border presented the best chance to prove they existed before the war began.

"For whatever reason, the administration never made public these facts about an active WMD

production facility run by terrorists in Iraq," Rumsfeld wrote.

He said he made his recommendation to Bush at a Feb. 3, 2003, National Security Council meeting in which Powell sketched out the presentation he was to make at the U.N. two days later.

Rumsfeld quotes himself as telling the meeting, "We should hit Khurmal during the speech, given that Colin will talk about it." Khurmal is the name of a village near the site. Powell objected.

In his U.N. presentation, Powell described it as "Terrorist Poison and Explosive Factory, Khurmal." Rumsfeld said Khurmal was operated by Ansar al-Islam, a Sunni militant group with ties to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian extremist who later led the Iraq branch of the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Rumsfeld wrote that he wanted to attack the site before Powell finished his presentation in New York, because otherwise the site would be abandoned.

Had Powell not stood in the way, in Rumsfeld's view, the Bush administration might have gained conclusive evidence that Iraq had an active WMD site. "As expected, shortly after Powell's speech was delivered,



was unaware that Rumsfeld had advocated bombing the place while Powell was at the U.N.

By that time, the Khurmal camp had been largely empty for months, Zenko said.

The Rumsfeld memoir covers the full span of his 78 years, from growing up in a small town outside Chicago, his Navy days, his years in Congress, a string of staff jobs in the Nixon White House, his first tour as defense secretary under President Gerald R. Ford, a period as a business executive and his return to the Pentagon in January 2001. He is the only person to have served twice as defense secretary; he also is the youngest to have held the job and the oldest.

To promote and expand on the book, Rumsfeld established a web site that contains a select group of his official papers. Some required declassification at his request.

Rumsfeld said he chose documents that are "of particular historical interest" or are related to the events that he describes in the book. Without knowing the full contents of the papers it is impossible to know whether he included only documents that support his version of events or omitted unflattering items.

In this undated publicity image released by ABC, Diane Sawyer, right, talks to former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in his first television interview since leaving public service in November 2006.

many of the terrorists fled Khurmal," he wrote.

An AP reporter who visited the site a few days after Powell's speech found a half-built cinder-block compound filled with heavily armed Kurdish men, video

equipment and children—but no obvious sign of chemical weapons manufacturing. Much of the site was destroyed by American cruise missile strikes at the outset of the invasion.

Micah Zenko, a political

scientist at the Council on Foreign Relations, extensively researched U.S. planning for a military strike on Khurmal in 2002 and detailed it in his book, "Between Threats and War." He said in an interview that he

House rejects extensions of Patriot Act provisions

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House on Tuesday failed to extend the life of three surveillance tools that are key to the nation's post-Sept. 11 anti-terror law, a slipup for the new Republican leadership that miscalculated the level of opposition.

The House voted 277-148 to keep the three provisions of the USA Patriot Act on the books until Dec. 8. But Republicans brought up the bill under a special expedited procedure requiring a two-thirds majority, and the vote was seven short of reaching that level.

The Republicans, who took over the House last month, lost 26 of their own members, adding to the 122 Democrats who voted against it. Supporters say the three measures are vital to preventing another terrorist attack, but critics say they infringe on civil liberties. They appealed to the antipathy that newer and more conservative Republicans hold for big government invasions of individual privacy.

Earlier on Tuesday, Republicans also pulled a bill from the floor because of dissatisfaction about extending trade benefits for three South American countries while continuing a program that helps retrain Americans who lose their jobs to foreign competition.

The Patriot Act bill would have renewed the authority for court-approved roving wire-

taps that permit surveillance on multiple phones. Also addressed was Section 215, the so-called library records provision that gives the FBI court-approved access to "any tangible thing" relevant to a terrorism investigation.

The third deals with the "lone-wolf" provision of a 2004 anti-terror law that permits secret intelligence surveillance of non-U.S. people not known to

be affiliated with a specific terrorist organization.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., the former Judiciary Committee chairman who authored the 2001 Patriot Act, urged his colleagues to support the extensions, saying they were needed as a stopgap until permanent statutes could be agreed upon.

"The terrorist threat has not subsided and will not expire, and neither should our national

security laws," he said.

But Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, said Republican supporters of the tea party movement should show their opposition to big government by joining Democrats in opposing the measure.

"How about the Patriot Act, which has the broadest reach and the deepest reach of government to our daily lives?" he asked.

Obama has kicked smoking habit, first lady says

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama has finally done what millions of fellow Americans are still struggling to achieve—he's given up smoking.

"Yes, he has," his wife, Michelle, said Tuesday at the White House when asked whether he had conquered a nicotine habit that began as a teenager.

"It's been almost a year," she said, offering no details on exactly when or how he quit.

But is the breakup with tobacco final?

One in five adults, about 46 million people, still smoke, and brain research shows that nicotine is powerfully addictive. Three out of four smok-

ers who try to kick the habit relapse within six months, and repeated attempts often are required to quit long term, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Obama, who has one of the world's most stressful jobs, has walked this tobacco road before. He announced in February 2008, during his presidential campaign, that he was quitting smoking—again.

"He's always wanted to stop," Mrs. Obama said Tuesday. She said he wants to be able to look daughters Malia, 12, and Sasha, 9, in the eye and deny that he smokes should they ask.

The issue of Obama's smoking last surfaced in December,



when White House press secretary Robert Gibbs was asked about it and said he had "not seen or witnessed evidence of any smoking in probably nine months." That timeline would put Obama's final cigarette puffs in March of last year.

At the time, Gibbs stopped short of asserting that Obama had quit completely.

The White House offered no details Tuesday, in keeping with its practice of trying to keep Obama's habit out of the spotlight.

Obama last addressed the question in June 2009.

Before signing a tough anti-smoking law designed to keep millions of teens from getting hooked, Obama ruefully admitted that he had spent his adult life trying to give up cigarettes.

ACROSS THE NATION

Vote eyed in AZ on denial of citizenship to kids

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona lawmaker says he intends to seek a committee vote next week on his challenge to automatic U.S. citizenship for children of illegal immigrants—even if it means the measure is defeated. Republican Sen. Ron Gould said Tuesday he called off a previously expected vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee because he believed the bill would have lost. Gould, of Lake Havasu City, now says he plans to seek a vote Monday so voters will know which lawmakers support and oppose the measure. Supporters of the idea say guaranteed citizenship results in taxpayers covering the costs of services provided to illegal immigrants and their children. Opponents say the move would be declared unconstitutional.

Woman dies after buttocks injection at Pa. hotel

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Police say they're investigating the death of a 20-year-old woman who had a silicone injection into her buttocks at a hotel near the Philadelphia airport. Detectives say the woman and three companions had traveled from London and were staying at the Hampton Inn in southwest Philadelphia. They say two had traveled in November to have buttocks enlargements and on Monday one received a further injection while the other had a hip augmentation. Detective Joseph Murray says the woman who had the buttocks injection later was taken to a hospital and died early Tuesday. The results of an autopsy by the Delaware County medical examiner's office haven't been released.

Pregnant Colo. woman mistakenly gets abortion drug

FORT LUPTON, Colo. (AP)—A Colorado woman who is six weeks pregnant says a pharmacist at a grocery store mistakenly gave her an abortion drug instead of an antibiotic and now she fears she will lose her unborn child. Mareena Silva tells Denver's KMGH-TV that the pharmacist at the Safeway in Fort Lupton gave her methotrexate last week. The drug, intended for another woman, is used in chemotherapy and to terminate early-stage pregnancies. Silva says she took a pill and checked the bottle after becoming sick. She was rushed to the hospital.

Asia

Philippine ex-general apparently commits suicide

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—

A former military chief apparently committed suicide Tuesday at his mother's grave—a dramatic twist in a scandal over accusations that top Philippine generals skimmed money from the army to fund a lavish lifestyle.

Retired Gen. Angelo Reyes, 65, was pronounced dead on arrival at a Manila hospital from a single gunshot wound in the chest, Health Secretary Enrique Ona said in a news conference broadcast nationwide.

Reyes, who headed the military from 2001 to 2003, was at the center of a congressional probe into one of the biggest corruption scandals to have hit the Philippine armed forces.

Corruption, entrenched in the Philippine society, is an especially explosive issue in the inadequately equipped and poorly paid 120,000-strong military that has sparked several insurrections in the last two decades by disgruntled soldiers.

Witness Feliciano Recorba, a cemetery worker, said he saw Reyes standing near his mother's grave as his two sons and bodyguards waited in their



The blood of retired Gen. Angelo Reyes is splattered across the tomb marker of his mother where he reportedly shot himself at the Loyola Memorial Park in suburban Marikina, east of Manila on Tuesday Feb. 8, 2011.

parked car. He then saw Reyes holding a pistol close to his chest with his left hand moments before the shot rang out.

"It appears from the statement of the witness, it was self-inflicted," Metropolitan Manila police chief Nicanor Bartolome said.

Health Secretary Ona said he would await autopsy results before commenting.

The military expressed shock at Reyes' death, flying flags at half-staff in camps nationwide and urging Congress

to expedite its probe into military corruption. President Benigno Aquino III, elected last year on the promise to prosecute corrupt officials, sent his condolences.

Though corruption is rampant, the magnitude of the accusations against Reyes and two other retired military chiefs shocked many in this Southeast Asian nation, which has grappled with government corruption scandals for decades but produced few convictions.

PH govt, Muslim rebels resume talks

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Philippine government and the country's largest Muslim rebel group resumed formal peace talks Wednesday for the first time since President Benigno Aquino III took office last year.

Chief government negotiator Marvic Leonen said both sides began a meeting scheduled to run for two days in Malaysia, which has brokered the negotiations since 1997.

The peace process seeks to end a decades-long rebellion by the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Talks collapsed in 2008 when the Phil-

ippine Supreme Court rejected a preliminary accord with the government of then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that would have expanded an existing Muslim autonomous region in the southern Philippines.

After Aquino took office in June, both sides formed new peace panels and worked to resume talks.

Leonen did not give details of Wednesday's meeting at an undisclosed location. He previously said the government would seek a full report about the status of Ameril Umra Kato, a rebel commander who reportedly has formed his own armed group.

A splintering in the ranks of the rebel front could undermine the effectiveness of the peace talks. The rebels say their leadership is trying win back Kato through dialogue.

Both sides are also expected to discuss extending the mandate of international peace monitors who are helping to maintain a cease-fire in the southern Philippines, the homeland of minority Muslims in this predominantly Roman Catholic country.

Leonen had said in a statement Monday the government was trying to hammer out "a comprehensive political settlement within the soonest possible time."

ta resident Antonius Richmond Bawangan, 58, was found guilty of distributing books and leaflets that "spread hatred about Islam" and sentenced to the maximum five years in prison. Islamic hard-liners shouted during the rioting that the man should have received the death penalty. Anti-riot police fired into the air to disperse the crowd.

Myanmar's opposition says sanctions on junta work

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The pro-democracy party of Aung San Suu Kyi endorsed Western sanctions against Myanmar on Tuesday, saying they hurt the authoritarian regime not ordinary citizens and implying it's too early to lift them. For weeks, there have been indications that the Nobel Peace Prize laureate was questioning her longtime support of sanctions. But a four-page report issued by her party Tuesday was the first clarification of her position and could temper any momentum to lift sanctions. Suu Kyi had suggested after her recent release from years of house arrest that she might be open to an easing of the measures. Her comments raised interest in the West, which has long taken cues from her and her party on the subject.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Damage to temple on Thai-Cambodia border minimal

PREAH VIHEAR, Cambodia (AP)—A historic temple that was the scene of artillery battles between Cambodia and Thailand appears to have suffered minimal damage, as journalists used a fragile truce Tuesday to inspect the site. Four days of shelling in the disputed border region blackened hillsides surrounding Preah Vihear temple and shrapnel from the blasts chipped away at some of the sanctuary's ancient walls, but the damage was light and the structure remained intact. Cambodian officials said over the weekend that Thai artillery collapsed "a wing" of the temple, but Thai officials dismissed the account as propaganda. Tuesday was the first day journalists were able to visit the temple since Cambodia made the claim.

Indonesian mob burns churches, attack police

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Hundreds of Islamic hard-liners stormed a courthouse and set two churches on fire Tuesday in central Indonesia to protest what they considered a lenient sentence for a Christian convicted of blaspheming Islam. Jakarta

World

Freed young leader energizes Egyptian protests

CAIRO (AP)—A young

Google executive who helped ignite Egypt's uprising energized a cheering crowd of hundreds of thousands Tuesday with his first appearance in their midst after being released from 12 days in secret detention. "We won't give up," he promised at one of the biggest protests yet in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Once a behind-the-scenes Internet activist, 30-year-old Wael Ghonim has emerged as an inspiring voice for a movement that has taken pride in being a leaderless "people's revolution." Now, the various activists behind it—including Ghonim—are working to coalesce into representatives to push their demands for President Hosni Mubarak's ouster.

Assange's lawyer: Sweden acted improperly in probe

LONDON (AP)—The man

famous for leaking thousands of secret U.S. military and diplomatic documents just spent two days in court fighting extradition to Sweden and criticizing prosecutors there for allegedly leaking his name to the media in a sex crimes inquiry.

No one in court acknowledged any irony in Julian Assange's efforts to seek the protection of confidentiality. At a testy hearing in a London courtroom, both sides traded pointed remarks Tuesday about the quality of Sweden's justice system.

Lawyers for the WikiLeaks founder say he is the victim of a flawed investigation conducted in the media spotlight and will not get a fair trial

With protests invigorated, Vice President Omar Suleiman

issued a sharply worded warning, saying of the protests in Tahrir, "We can't bear this for a long time, and there must be an end to this crisis as soon as possible," in a sign of growing impatience with 16 days of mass demonstrations.

For the first time, protesters made a foray to Parliament, several blocks away from their camp in the square. Several hundred marched to the legislature and chanted for it to be dissolved.

In Tahrir, the massive, shoulder-to-shoulder crowd's ranks swelled with new blood, including thousands of university professors and lawyers who marched in together as organizers worked to draw in professional

in Sweden. He has not been charged in the case and denies all wrongdoing.

A lawyer for the Swedish government, however, said Swedish prosecutors had no choice but to issue an arrest warrant for Assange after repeatedly failing to pin down the elusive Australian for an interview about the allegations.

The argument spilled out onto the lawn outside Belmarsh Magistrates' Court, where Assange accused Marianne Ny, the Swedish prosecutor in charge of his case, of being too afraid to come to a British court to answer questions.

"What we've seen is process abuse after process abuse

unions. The crowd rivaled the biggest demonstration so far, a week ago, that drew a quarter-million people.

Some said they were inspired to turn out by an emotional television interview Ghonim gave Monday night just after his release from detention. He sobbed over those who have been killed in two weeks of clashes and insisted, "We love Egypt ... and we have rights."

"I cried," a 33-year-old upper-class housewife, Fifi Shawqi, said of the interview with Ghonim, who she'd never heard of before the TV appearance. She came to the Tahrir protest for the first time, bringing her three daughters and her sister. "I felt like he is my son and all the youth here are my sons."

being revealed for hours and hours," Assange told reporters. "What we have not seen however is the chief prosecutor ... she has refused to come to the proceedings."

Sweden's prosecutor-general, Anders Perklev, issued a statement Tuesday defending both the Swedish justice system and Ny. While Perklev noted that Assange should be considered innocent until proven guilty, he stressed that Ny had a duty to complete the investigation.

"Marianne Ny has acted completely in accordance with her role as a public prosecutor and she obviously has the competence needed for the decisions that have been made in this case," Perklev said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Arson not suspected in Rio Carnival fire

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Threads of smoke

rose from the charred warehouses of three major samba groups Tuesday as workers salvaged what they could of floats and costumes so they can put on some sort of a show before millions celebrating Rio de Janeiro's famed Carnival in less than a month. Police said they did not believe arson caused the blaze Monday that consumed thousands of costumes, sculptures and floats built for the festival, but a police spokesman said investigators were still trying to determine what set off the flames.

One of the most heartbreaking aspects of the fire was that it destroyed the costumes of low-income community members who work on them in the year leading up to the parade. Devastated Carnival group members scrambled to make plans for the best show possible.

Trial sought for Berlusconi in prostitution probe

MILAN (AP)—Italian prosecutors were set to request that Premier Silvio Berlusconi stand trial over accusations he paid for sex with a 17-year-old girl and then used his influence to try to cover it up. The prosecutors will file their request in Milan on Wednesday. A judge must then decide

whether to accept the prosecutors' request and indict the 74-year-old leader or dismiss it. The prosecutors might request a single trial on both accusations or opt for separate procedures. They allege that Berlusconi paid for sex with a Moroccan girl nicknamed Ruby, who has since turned 18, and then used his influence to get her out of police custody when she was detained for the suspected theft of €3,000 (\$4,103), allegedly fearing her relationship to him would be revealed.

Uncle of missing Swiss twins says hopes fading

GENEVA (AP)—The family of missing Swiss twins says hopes of finding the girls are waning after police discovered their father had mailed thousands of euros to his estranged wife before he apparently killed himself. The 6-year-old girls' uncle, Dr. Valerio Lucidi, told reporters outside their home in a suburb of Lausanne that every passing minute is filled with fear. He said hopes had dimmed since the police discovered that the girls' father—and presumed custodian—had withdrawn euro7,000 (\$9,570) in the French port of Marseille last week and mailed euro4,400 of it to Lucidi's sister, Irina Lucidi. Lucidi said this suggests Schepp did not intend using the money to provide care for Alessia and Livia.

Focus

NEW YORK (AP)—It was a miserable morning in New York, rain falling heavily and a 30 mph wind that made holding an umbrella difficult. Yet a man walked briskly up Fifth Avenue, balancing his umbrella and dodging pedestrians as he texted from his smart phone.

As a sheer physical act, it was almost Olympian in the strength, dexterity and concentration required.

It was also completely ridiculous.

It was RAINING. And cold. The man was, let's presume, minutes from some destination. At any moment, he could spear a fellow pedestrian with his umbrella because he was only marginally paying attention to where he was going. What message could possibly be so important that it couldn't wait?

While smart phones and other electronic devices changed popular culture by offering an ability to always stay connected, they have so swiftly turned into such a compelling need that a simple walk down the street is considered wasted time.

One too many times stepping around a shuffling pedestrian immersed in e-mail led me to conduct a social experiment. I decided to count the number of people I saw distracted by their electronic devices during my 25-minute morning walk to work from New York's Grand Central Station to the far West Side.

Some ground rules: Cell-phone conversations count, along with texting and looking at the devices. I didn't consider listening to music to be a distraction - that, um, would require counting myself - but people who looked at their iPods while walking made the list. Pulling over to the side to use an electronic device didn't count, because that's what a courteous pedestrian should be doing.

So those three construction workers who stood together talking on their phones off Fifth Avenue were safe from wrath. Same for the woman who frequently asks for spare change next to St.



AP

This Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011 photo shows a pedestrian walking while using a phone in New York. While smartphones and other electronic devices changed popular culture by offering an ability to always stay connected, it so swiftly turned into such a compelling need that a simple walk down the street is considered wasted time.

Smart phones foster dumb habits among pedestrians

Michael's Church on 33rd Street when she's on her cell. She's usually sitting.

In 15 mornings of counting in late November and December, the average was 48.6 people. The most was 67. The fewer was 28, on the rainy day our Fifth Avenue textite felt he had room to maneuver. Generally speaking, it was about one in 10 pedestrians.

In that time, I saw a woman nearly flattened by a taxi when she stepped off a curb into traffic while looking into her cell phone. A bicycle messenger rode and talked on his phone at the same time. One gabber pushed a baby stroller. One morning two police officers were on the phone. A man nearly bumped into me after swiveling his head mid-step from his screen to watch the backside of a woman passing by.

Even people not using their smart phones kept them in their hands, like drawn weapons. It's become an accepted part of urban posture.

Mind you, this is winter in the Northeast; the temperature was finger-numbing on many mornings. No problem: I pass by a bus shelter with an advertisement for gloves specially equipped to work touch-screens. There are also smart phone apps that encourage texting while walking, using the device's camera to show a picture on the screen

of where a person is walking, visible as a backdrop behind what they're typing.

Smart phones have replaced tourists as New York pedestrians' biggest headache. We used to disdain people from out of town when they wandered slowly on the sidewalks, looking skyward at tall buildings and muttering as we walked by with purpose.

Now we're the menace.

We also used to walk with a certain amount of hyperawareness. Remember muggers creeping from dark corners? Pickpockets who worked the crowds? Now many people walk down the street oblivious to their surroundings, fiddling with an electronic device worth hundreds of dollars.

One New Yorker who followed my daily Facebook count of distracted pedestrians admits she's one of them. In fact, she often walks down city streets with her husband, both engrossed not in each other, but in their smart phones.

"I find that my walk to the subway or home at night is the only time I can actually focus on myself," said the woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of looking silly. "All of the other times of the day I'm surrounded by people who are constantly grabbing for my attention. I am the classic multitasker."

By DAVID BAUDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

While she walks, her mind's usually racing with things she needs to remind co-workers or contacts, things she must tell the baby sitter.

Why not do it in the moment?

"I get a lot of dirty looks on the street, from people who are frustrated that I'm not looking where I'm going," she said. "I try hard to be respectful of the other pedestrians and look up and down very frequently."

A clip posted on YouTube last week of a woman who fell into a fountain while walking and texting at the Berkshire Mall in Wyomissing, Pa., near Reading, has been seen by more than 3 million people. The Pennsylvania woman, Cathy Cruz Marrero, appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America" Thursday with a lawyer and said they're looking into who was responsible for spreading the video. What was so important that she had to text right away? Someone she knew from church had e-mailed to ask when was Marrero's birthday.

It could be the permanent state of things; smart phone use is growing fast. The Nielsen Co. said that 95 percent of American adults have cell

phones. Nearly a third of those are smart phones.

I'll confess that the devices have driven me to a few minor episodes of sidewalk rage. I've lightly bumped into distracted pedestrians on purpose a couple of times. Not to cause harm - just to snap them from their virtual worlds and make them aware of the real one.

I've been to parties where clumps of people stared into devices, or texted, instead of actually conversing with humans around them. I always marvel upon landing on a redeye flight from the West Coast at how many people immediately take out their phones and begin dialing. It's 5:30 a.m. - 2:30 in the city they've left. Who are they calling?

William Powers once saw two women in New York crashing baby strollers into one another because they were both concentrating on phones. Powers, a former Washington Post reporter, wrote the book "Hamlet's BlackBerry," about how an addiction to technology prevents people from doing their best work or forging healthy relationships.

"We're hard-wired from our primitive ancestors to pay attention to novelty," he said. It happens whenever there are major technological shifts, like the establishment of printing presses,

he said. Author Henry David Thoreau, famed for writing about a life in solitude around Walden Pond, once observed in the 1850s that people had become addicted to going to the post office.

"Didn't we say the same thing a while back about boom boxes and Walkmen?" noted Lizabeth Cohen, professor of American Studies in Harvard University's history department. "Maybe the constant is change."

Powers believes things will calm down as people become more accustomed to the technology. Knowing you can check your e-mail at any time may become as satisfying as actually doing it, and more phones will stay in the pocket. Society, in its natural course, may impose a new set of behaviors. When cell phones were new, he noted, many people didn't think twice about answering a call while sitting in a theater. Now that's much more rare.

Changes are noticeable in another part of my journey to work, too. Cell phone conversations used to be fairly commonplace on the commuter train. Now they are widely frowned upon, a new social order set informally by fellow passengers.

So there's hope. In the meantime, look out for yourself on the street. No one else is.

Environment

Endangered decision delayed on Pacific walrus

By DAN JOLING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Pacific walrus need additional protection from the threat of climate warming but cannot be added to the threatened or endangered list because other species are a higher priority, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Tuesday.

Walrus will be added to the “warranted but precluded” list, said agency spokesman Bruce Wood, a designation under the Endangered Species Act that allows delays in listing if the

agency is making progress listing other species and does not have resources to make a decision on others.

“The threats to the walrus are very real, as evidenced by this ‘warranted’ finding,” said Geoff Haskett, the service’s Alaska region director, in a statement. “But its greater population numbers and ability to adapt to land-based haulouts make its immediate situation less dire than those facing other species such as the polar bear.”

He said cooperation with Alaska Native groups, the state and other partners could lessen

the long-term impact of climate change for the walrus and help it avoid an endangered listing.

The decision was condemned by the Center for Biological Diversity, which in 2008 petitioned to list walrus as threatened or endangered, citing threats to walrus’ sea ice habitat. Center spokeswoman Shaye Wolf said the warranted but precluded designation is a black hole for imperiled species. Some have been so designated for more than 20 years.

This decision acknowledges the walrus is facing extinction due to climate change but the

Obama administration is withholding the protections that could help the walrus survive,” Wolf said.

Scientists at the National Snow and Ice Data Center have tracked a steady decline in sea ice in recent decades. Climate models have projected that summer sea ice could disappear by 2030.

Alaska’s walrus population spends virtually the entire winter in the Bering Sea on the edge of sea ice that forms every year. In spring, as temperatures warm, ice melts and the edge of the sea ice moves north.

Applicants sought for \$1.2M grants to address health, environmental issues

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting grant applications for \$1.2 million in funding to support projects designed to research, educate, empower and enable communities to understand and address local health and environmental issues. Eligible applicants from non-profit, faith-based and tribal organizations working in the community of the proposed project are encouraged to apply.

in communities.

Environmental justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race or income, in the environmental decision-making process. Environmental justice issues often involve multiple sources of contamination, like pollution from several industrial facilities within one neighborhood, environmental hazards at the workplace or home, or contamination resulting from the consumption of

ON THE NET

- More information on eligibility and how to apply: <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/grants/ej-smgrants-rfp-2011.pdf>
- More information on the Environmental Justice Small Grant program: <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>

Environmental Justice Small Grants funding is available for two categories of projects:

- 40 grants of up to \$25,000 each to support projects that address a community’s local environmental issues through collaborative partnerships, and;
- four grants of up to \$50,000 each to gather better science on the environmental and health impacts of exposure to multiple sources of pollution

fish or other subsistence food.

Environmental contamination can lead to costly health risks and can discourage investments and development in low-income, minority, and indigenous communities disproportionately impacted by pollution. Understanding the impacts of multiple environmental risks can help communities develop more effective solutions to their environmental and health concerns. (EPA)

Less is more on Valentine's Day

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Are you stumped for a Valentine’s Day gift idea? Do you hate the idea of giving someone you love even more ‘stuff’? Be a bit different this year and Do Your Part to pick some waste-free gifts that your special someone will truly love.

I’ll start with the staples of any Valentine’s Day—the card and the flowers. There are

easy ways to make these traditional items more personal and a lot less wasteful. One way is to give a ‘seeded’ greeting card. These cards actually have flower seeds embedded in the paper. Your loved one can plant the entire card and then watch your love bloom.

A potted blooming plant like tulip bulbs, are a greener alternative to cut flowers that travel thousands of miles from warmer climates. Plus it will last a whole lot longer! If you’re sweetie has her heart set on a bunch of cut flowers look for ones with the Veriflora logo or the Fair Trade logo to ensure they were sustainably grown and the workers treated fairly.

Gifts for a personal service are another thoughtful way to say ‘I love you.’ Who wouldn’t love a massage, a manicure, or a fresh new hairdo?

You could also make your

own coupon offering a personal service that your Valentine will love like a foot rub or help cleaning.

If jewelry is a must for you, then you’ll have to check out some of the incredible pieces being crafted from recycled materials. You can find necklaces, earrings, and bracelets made from all sorts of reused materials—everything from recycled glass to colorful magazine pages.

These pieces aren’t hard to find, either. I’ve provided links to some of my favorites at DoYourPart.com/Columns.

Lastly, there are the gifts that create wonderful memories. Tickets to a show or a concert are always good bets. And the gift of dance lessons or a romantic picnic for two is sure to please your partner.

Remember, not every gift has to come in a box. Do Your Part this Valentine’s Day to do something that takes a little thought and leaves behind a whole lot less trash. And show the planet a little love too.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE OF ELECTRIC BASE RATE

The CNMI Public Utilities Commission (Commission) regulates the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), pursuant to a recent statute, PL 15-35, as amended. The Commission required CUC to file a rate case in November 2010. In this filing, CUC requested a change to its electric base rate.

Accordingly, on November 10, 2010, CUC filed a petition with the Commission to raise its electric base rate, under Docket 09-1. On December 8, 2010 and February 9, 2011, CUC filed supplemental petitions on the same subject matter.

CUC’s rate increase request is primarily due to reasons that are beyond CUC’s control. CUC is currently operating at a substantial deficit, cannot borrow money, and relies entirely on the revenues from its customers and federal grants. The rate increases are critical in order for the company to maintain financial health. Additionally, CUC is required by statute and the Stipulated Order to achieve “full cost recovery”. This means that CUC’s revenues must fully cover the cost of providing service to its ratepayers. This includes cost of maintenance, repair, replacement of pipes, and other equipment in the coming years.

In its petition, CUC requested that the Commission adopt an increase to its electric base rate, to become effective April 1, 2011. The proposed rate increases are as follows:

CPUC DOCKET 09-1 COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION PROPOSED ELECTRIC BASE RATE DESIGN					
	E.1 Residential	E.2 Commercial	E.3 Government		
CURRENT ELECTRIC RATES — BASE CHARGE					
Monthly Customer Chg	\$ 5.60	\$ 7.67	\$ 7.67		
Per kWh:					
500	0.0160	0.0860	0.0910		
501	1,000	0.0660	0.0860	0.0910	
1,001	2,000	0.0860	0.0860	0.0910	
2,001	Above	0.1270	0.0860	0.0910	
PROPOSED ELECTRIC RATES — BASE CHARGE					
Monthly Customer Chg	\$ 7.28	\$ 9.97	\$ 9.97		
Per kWh:					
500	0.0210	0.1120	0.1180		
501	1,000	0.0860	0.1120	0.1180	
1,001	2,000	0.1120	0.1120	0.1180	
2,001	Above	0.1650	0.1120	0.1180	

CUC notes that the average residential ratepayer uses approximately 500 kWh per month. The proposed rate adjustment will increase his or her monthly electric bill by approximately \$4.18. Higher volume residential and commercial users will experience greater increases.

The Commission will conduct a public hearing which will commence at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 18, 2011, at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room, located in the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan, to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the above regulatory matter.

After the public hearing, the Commission will conduct a special business meeting on March 25, 2011, to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing.

A set of the CUC rate case petitions, and the written testimony and the exhibits, is available for download from the internet as follows:

1. Open Internet Explorer.
2. Type <ftp://economists.com>. Do not type “<http://>” or anything else, just <ftp://economists.com>
3. Click on “Page” -- upper right corner of Internet Explorer window.
4. Click on “Open FTP Site in Windows Explorer”.
5. An entry window will pop up. Enter user name: “Cucftp”; and password: “Cucsaihan1”. Both are case-sensitive.

A written copy will also be available for inspection at the following places: CUC Admin Offices: Joeten Dandan Building, 3rd Floor; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office.

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building • P. O. Box 501220 • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 235-7025 – 7032 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

Life & Style

Lindsay Lohan to be charged with grand theft

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors said Tuesday they plan to charge Lindsay Lohan with felony grand theft of a \$2,500 necklace reported stolen from a jewelry store last month.

District Attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison said the charge will be filed Wednesday. She is due in court for an arraignment on Wednesday afternoon.

The charge brings the troubled star another step closer

to jail. Lohan, 24, remains on probation for a 2007 drunken driving case and a judge had threatened to throw her in jail if she ran into trouble again.

Los Angeles police said Feb. 2 that Lohan was under investigation for taking a necklace from a Venice store later identified as Kamofie and Co.



Lohan

Detectives obtained a search warrant to try to retrieve the item from Lohan's home, but it was turned into a police station before any search was made.

Police said they had no update on the case Tuesday and did not say whether the actress had made arrangements to turn herself in at court or at a

police station.

Robison said bail would be decided by a judge.

A phone message to Lohan's attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, was not immediately returned. Holley has previ-

ously denied any wrongdoing by Lohan.

"We vehemently deny these allegations and, if charges are filed, we will fight them in court, not in the press," Holley said in a statement released Saturday.

The new case represents the most serious charges the "Mean Girls" star has ever faced. Arrested twice in 2007, Lohan was charged with drunken driving and drug possession, but both were misdemeanors.

Court tells man to stay away from Facebook founder

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has obtained a temporary restraining order against a California man accused of stalking him, his girlfriend and his sister.

A Santa Clara County Superior Court judge on Feb. 1 ordered 31-year-old Pradeep Manukonda of Milpitas to stay away from Zuckerberg and stop contacting him.



Zuckerberg

Manukonda also left a note on Zuckerberg's car and was later spotted outside his house, Sheets said.

Guards stopped Manukonda just as he was about to walk up the front stairs to Zuckerberg's Palo Alto residence, where Zuckerberg's girlfriend was inside, according to court documents.

Sheets said he contacted Palo Alto police at the time and that an officer gave Manukonda a verbal stay-away order. Two days later, Sheets says Manukonda sent Zuckerberg a letter at his home and flowers two days after that, despite an in-person interview with Sheets where he

promised to stop.

Manukonda did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Facebook confirmed the restraining order but declined to comment.

In the letters included as evidence in the court file, Manukonda pleads with Zuckerberg for a few minutes of his time. Though his requests are vague, he appears to be seeking money to pay for medical treatment for his mother.

"I plead, please help me in saving my mother," he writes in a letter dated Jan. 23. "I am ready to die for you. Please Mark please."

Later in the same letter he writes: "I am waiting outside your house."

PARIS (AP)—Paris is formalizing its fascination with "Mad Men" by giving a medal to the hit series' creator and executive producer, Matthew Weiner.

Two of the series' stars, Christina Hendricks, who plays office manager Joan Harris, and John Slattery, who plays ad agency partner Roger Sterling, flanked Weiner at the ceremony Tuesday at Paris' City Hall.

Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë's top official for cultural matters presented Weiner with the Vermeil medal for cultural and other contributions to society.

"I fell in love with Paris through the movies," said Weiner, adding that it was "very meaningful" to be given the award.

"Mad Men," which traces the lives of advertising executives in 1960s New York, has been a hit with French fans. Photographers and camera crews mobbed the

Paris honors 'Mad Men' creator



AP U.S. creator, executive producer and writer of the hit TV series Mad Men Matthew Weiner, left, with his wife Linda Brettler, center, poses after receiving the Vermeil Medal of the City of Paris, as U.S. actress Christina Hendricks looks around, in the City Hall, in Paris Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011.

three on their way in and out of the ceremony.

Weiner, Hendricks and Slattery were also in Paris to promote the Feb. 17 high-definition premiere of "Mad Men" on the Sundance Channel in France.

Death and Funeral Announcement

Maria Nakatsukasa Aldan

Better known as "Maria Janis"

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 2, 2011 at the age of 61

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: Johannes Koyama Nakatsukasa & Consuelo Songao Taisacan Nakatsukasa

Husband: David Taitano Aldan

Daughter: Genoveva N. Aldan

Grand Daughter: Deveynor Marie Aldan

Sister: Magdalena Nakatsukasa Maratita

Brother: Pedro Taisacan Nakatsukasa

Parents-In-Law: Jesus Aguon Aldan & Rosa Ilo Taitano Aldan

Brothers-In Law: Juan T. Aldan, Francisco Sn. Arriola &

Thomas C. Maratita

Sister-In-Law: Maria I. Taitano

Her love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:

Children/Spouses & Grandchildren:

Eleanor A./Melvin P. Cepeda (Elyssa, Edinna,

Emelsha/Jhaneeka) SAIPAN

Deveyanne A./Chris V. Cepeda (David John/Marissa,

Patricia Maria, Chris II) Forthood, TX

Velmalynn A./James D. Magofna (Davina Ann,

Jamel Maria) SAIPAN

Reared Children:

Genoveva Marie C./Kevin Clark – Springs, Colorado

Joevince/Kuleta M. Taitano

(Johannes, Coleen Jo, Joevince Jr.)

Janet U. Maratita & Children

Sister: Anna N. Arriola & Children

Children of the late Magdalena N. &

Thomas C. Maratita

Sister-In-Law: Remedio L. Nakatsukasa & Children

Also survived by Brothers, Sisters & Spouses In-Laws:

Children of the late Maria I. Taitano

Cornelio T./Joaquina V. Castro & Children

Fermina C./Francisco S. Palacios & Children

Jose T./Margarita S. Castro & Children

Jesus T./Teresita B. Aldan & Children

Escolastica A./Francisco P. Agulto & Children

Juliana A./Juan S. Cabrera & Children

Vicente T./Dolores M. Aldan & Children

Augustine T./Olivia B. Aldan & Children

Additionally survived by numerous nephews, nieces & god children.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00pm at San Antonio Church followed by the rosary. Funeral services will be held on Friday, February 11, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 10:00am to San Antonio Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00pm followed by interment service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu's Ma'ase

The Family



Picasso painting fetches \$40.7 million at auction

LONDON (AP)—A Pablo Picasso painting depicting his young lover Marie-Therese Walter has sold for 25.2 million pounds (\$40.7 million) at a London auction.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Bruno Mars, Keri Hilson set for pre-game show

NEW YORK (AP)—Next week will be a busy one for Bruno Mars. He's got the Grammy Awards—then a court date—then a performance to preview the NBA All-Star game. Mars and Keri Hilson have been tapped to perform on the T-Mobile-sponsored magenta carpet on the pre-game show at the players showcase Feb. 20 in Los Angeles. The NBA said Tuesday that Nick Cannon will host the festivities, to be aired live on TNT ahead of the big game. Mars is up for seven Grammys at Sunday's ceremony in Los Angeles. The next day, he is expected to be in a court in Las Vegas pleading guilty to a felony cocaine charge that will be wiped from his record if he stays out of trouble for a year. The singer, songwriter and producer is featured on the Grammy-nominated B.o.B song "Nothin' on You." He co-wrote Cee Lo Green's "Forget You" and has his own hit with "Just the Way You Are."

Elton John, Paul Simon to be Rock Hall presenters

NEW YORK (AP)—Elton John recently made an album with his longtime idol, Leon Russell. Now he'll do the induction honors when Russell is ushered into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next month. Russell and John are up for a Grammy award for their work on the joint album "The Union." John won't be the only Rock and Roll Hall of Famer honoring the 2011 class on March 14. Paul Simon will induct Neil Diamond, and Neil Young will induct Tom Waits. Also, Rob Zombie will induct Alice Cooper while John Legend will induct Dr. John. And Bette Midler will pay tribute to Darlene Love. The induction ceremony will be in New York City and will be aired on March 20 on the Fuse network.

Van Halen's guitar given to US museum

WASHINGTON (AP)—One of Eddie Van Halen's guitars will have a home at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The museum announced Monday that it has acquired the "Frank 2" guitar that Van Halen used during his 2007-2008 North American tour with original lead singer David Lee Roth. The red, white and black guitar is a replica of the original "Frankenstein" guitar that Van Halen used for more than 30 years. Van Halen constructed the "Frankenstein" guitar himself to suit his playing style. Museum director Brent Glass says the guitar reflects Van Halen's innovation, talent and influence. It will be part of the museum's instrument collection as a more contemporary piece. A museum spokeswoman says there are no current plans to put the guitar on public view.

Forget the surf, now Hasselhoff's on Big Ben watch

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister David Cameron met an unlikely namesake Tuesday, as TV's David Hasselhoff took a tour of Britain's Parliament. Cameron ran into Hasselhoff—and posed briefly for a photo—as the actor and presenter strolled close to the famous clock tower that houses the world-renowned Big Ben bell. Hasselhoff was being shown around Parliament by lawmaker and former musician David Morris. The former "Baywatch" star was helping Morris promote a campaign to restore a disused entertainment complex in Morecambe, the northern England seaside resort he represents in Parliament.

Gibson's new film 'The Beaver' moves to May 6

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Beaver" is on the move. The new Mel Gibson film, which co-stars director Jodie Foster, originally was scheduled to open in limited release on March 23, then expand to more theaters on April 8. But Summit Entertainment, which is distributing "The Beaver," said Tuesday that it's moving the film to a May 6 limited opening. It will appear in more theaters on May 20. Before that, though, "The Beaver" will premiere at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas, on March 16. Gibson stars as a troubled man who works through his depression by communicating with people through a beaver hand puppet.

Ex-'American Idol' star to make stage debut

NEW YORK (AP)—Former "American Idol" star Sanjaya Malakar is making his stage debut this month—but, no, it won't be in "Hair." The Indian-American singer, who was a finalist on Season 6 of the Fox singing competition and became known as much for his hairstyles as his voice, will be stepping into the off-Broadway musical "Freckleface Strawberry." The show is based on the popular children's book by Julianne Moore and is being staged at New World Stages on 50th Street. Malakar, son of a Bengali classical musician, joins the show on Feb. 23. The 21-year-old is currently writing and recording his own original music for a full length album "Life-Love-Music."

Sotheby's says the 1932 painting, called "La Lecture," was bought by an anonymous buyer over the phone after some six minutes of heated contest among bidders.

The painting was expected to fetch up to 18 million pounds (\$28.9 million). The picture's

selling price Tuesday included a premium of 2.7 million pounds (\$4.3 million).

It shows Walter, Picasso's mistress and model for several paintings, asleep in an armchair.

Walter was 17 when she met Picasso, and she later had a daughter, Maya, with the artist.



This photo released by Sotheby's, Tuesday Feb. 8 2011, shows the painting La Lecture, by Pablo Picasso. The painting, depicting his young lover Marie-Therese Walter, has sold for 25.2 million pounds (\$40.7 million) at a London auction Tuesday Feb. 8 2011.

Barbra Streisand to perform at Grammys ceremony

NEW YORK (AP)—Another legend is going to be appearing at this Sunday's Grammy awards—this time, it's Barbra Streisand.

Streisand is a nominee for best traditional pop vocal album for "Love Is The Answer," and she'll be performing on the live telecast. She'll be introduced by another music legend, her co-star in "A Star Is Born," Kris Kristofferson.

Streisand is also being hon-

ored on Friday by MusiCares, the Grammy's charitable foundation.

Last week, it was announced that Mick Jagger would be performing. It marks the first time Jagger has appeared on the Grammy stage.

Other performers include Eminem, Cee Lo Green, Gwyneth Paltrow, Arcade Fire and Justin Bieber.

The awards are set to air live on CBS from Los Angeles.



Streisand

Bristol Palin memoir? It's a mystery, for now

NEW YORK (AP)—Bristol Palin may or may not have a memoir out this summer. For now, it's a mystery.

Listings for an "Untitled Bristol Palin Memoir" were viewable Monday on Amazon.com (release date June) and an online catalog for HarperCollins (release date August). The listings have since been pulled.

Publicist Seal Balenger of the Harper imprint William Morrow, the book's presumed publisher, declined to comment Tuesday.

Bristol Palin, daughter of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, has become a celebrity herself through her appearances on "Dancing With the Stars" and as an advocate for sexual abstinence among unmarried teens.

The 20-year-old Palin is the mother of a 2-year-old, Tripp Johnston. She is estranged from the boy's father, Levi

Johnston.

Palin told E! Online on Monday that she would "probably" run for office someday.



Palin

Teenage outcast can't learn social skills all by himself

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: You assured "Overwhelmed" in Ohio" (Dec. 18) that fellow student "Dan" will "move on and start building a life" after high school is over. On what base might he build? Because "Overwhelmed" says Dan is an "outcast" whom everyone treats as invisible, and he has attached himself to the one person who has befriended him, it appears he has completely missed the normal teen social-learning process. How, then, is he supposed to have acquired the social skills necessary for building connections later in life?

There's a difference between being unpopular and being ostracized. An unpopular kid can participate in social situations with similar kids. A kid who is shunned cannot. Unfortunately, Dan may be on a path toward lifelong social illiteracy and isolation.

What needs to happen before "Overwhelmed" pulls away is for the adults in charge of this school to figure out why Dan has been ostracized, and develop an effective remedy for the situation—one that gets Dan into normal relationships with other people. And there should also be lessons about empathy provided to the students who are shunning him.

KNOWS FROM EXPERIENCE

DEAR KNOWS: Thank you for your insight. You are by no means the only reader who felt compelled to chime in on this sad situation. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: High school can be a cruel time for many young people, especially those deemed "outcasts" by their peers. I had a friend in high school who truly suffered. I made it my mission to make sure he felt he had a friend and wasn't completely alone. I hung out with him at lunch, at the library on weekends, and tried to include him in activities I was involved in. I defended him to those who called him names, and although I was younger than he, I felt like his protector.

Now, eight years later and living in different states, we are still friends. He told me recently that I was the only reason he didn't attempt suicide in high school. He said I had saved his life by just taking a few moments out of my day to say hello or hang out with him. At the time I didn't realize the lifeline I was extending.

LUCY IN OAKLAND, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: My teenage son was similarly "invisible" to most of his classmates and it led to deep depression and anxiety. He is now at a school with other kids who have social learning disorders—a broad class that includes Asperger's syndrome and a general failure to observe and respond to social cues.

If Dan falls into this category, he needs the help of both the adults and teens in his life. There is also effective therapy available for social learning disorders, and a decent school counselor should be able to help Dan and his parents find it.

MOM OF A FORMERLY INVISIBLE TEEN

DEAR ABBY: Dan might be autistic, which could explain his behavior. I have an autistic son who is high functioning. His social skills seem immature and he appears "geeky." People have shunned and teased him because of it.

After managing to develop some friendships in band (which, by the way, has some of the best geeky kids who accept others) and a church high school group, his social skills improved. But he needs those kids who overlook his quirks and befriend him to help him build confidence. They do exist; you just have to sometimes search for them. If Dan starts feeling more accepted by others, it may lessen his dependence on "Overwhelmed."

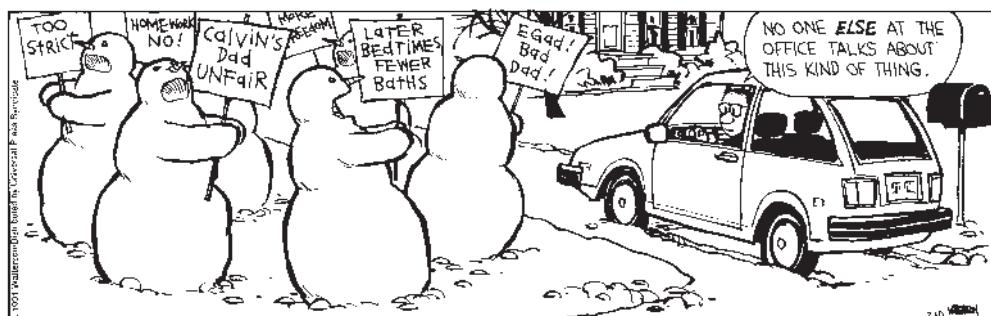
JANN IN TEXAS

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



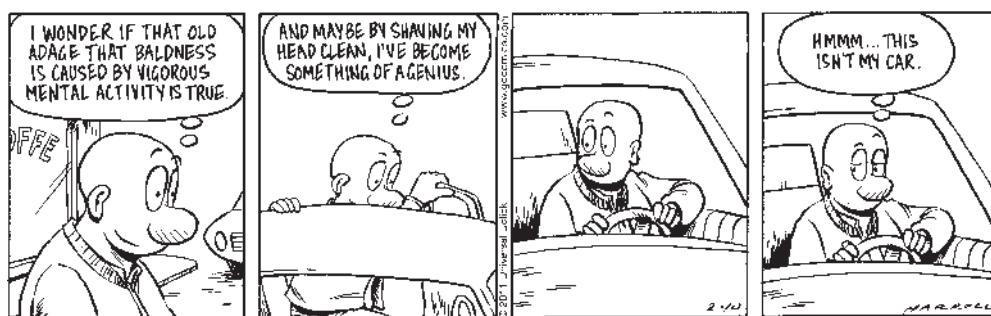
By Bill Waterson

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The Duplex



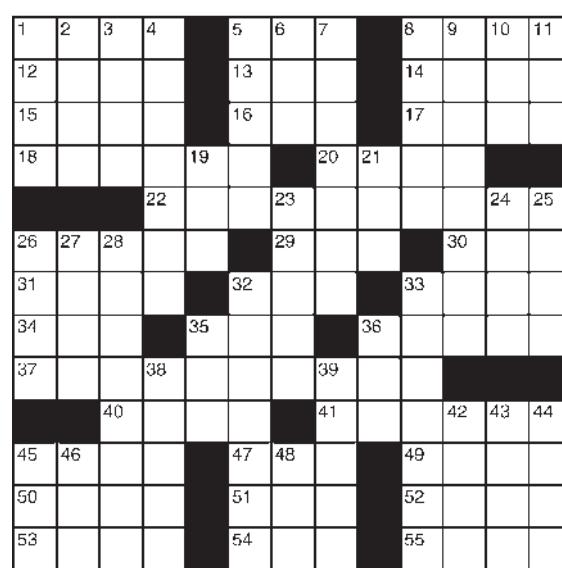
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	Part	DOWN	21	Feline
1 Blunder	36	songs	1 Festive	23	— tenens
5 Weep loudly	37	Consider	2 Stench		(temporary office-holder)
8 Window ledge	40	Albacore	3 Kiln		
12 Hebrew month	41	Speak unclearly	4 Comp	24	Pennsylvania port
13 Playwright Levin	45	Popular house-plant	5 Prophetess	25	Longings
14 Small combo	47	Upper surface	6 Raw rock	26	Organization
15 Come in second	49	Bedouin	7 "South Pacific" song	27	Traditional tales
16 — canto	50	Ireland	8 Milk-maid's perch	28	Amelia Earhart, e.g.
17 Seeping	51	Have a bug	9 Raymond Burr	32	Some Beethoven works
18 Blood channel	52	Poetic foot	10 Clairobeane of fashion	33	Kids' card game
20 Object of worship	53	Like	11 Actress Myrna	35	Yang counterpart
22 Admiral William of WWII	54	candles or crayons	19 Pirates' quaff	36	Wildebeest
26 Assertion	55	Crafty Society		38	Soft and liquid
29 Feedbag morsel		new-comers		39	Suggest
30 Rage				42	Highland hillside
31 Amour				43	Mary's follower
32 Phys. or biol.				44	Recedes
33 Valhalla VIP				45	Not many
34 Mentalist Geller				46	Historic time
35 Thee				48	Lubricate
Solution time: 25 mins.					
Yesterday's answer 2-10					

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Emma Roberts, 20; Elizabeth Banks, 37; Laura Dern, 44; George Stephanopoulos, 50

Happy Birthday: You can have it all or let your emotions get involved and lose. There is no room to go back and start over. There is so much you can gain if you are smart and stick to what does work. Don't let the little things take up too much of your time; it's the big picture that counts in the end this year. Your numbers are 7, 10, 12, 21, 26, 30, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take care of any red tape, rules or regulations before you move forward. Don't let your emotions lead you in a direction that will be difficult to change if your plans get unexpectedly altered. **★★★**

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You'll be emotional, causing you to miss out on something great if you are stubborn or unreasonable. Let others make their own mistakes and focus on doing your best, getting ahead, learning, traveling and engaging in conversations about the future. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You have more going for you than you think and can make a difference to the outcome of your future by aggressively going after your goals now. A financial gain will help you make a crucial decision that influences your personal life. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be nonproductive because you are surprised or in denial about something going on around you. You must shake yourself off and proceed to a new plan of action that ensures success. Start moving. **★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need a change of scenery. Mental stimulation will get you thinking and you can make some interesting changes. Do the research required to ensure your success. A relationship you have with someone will try your patience. **★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Have more fun. Collaborating with others will stimulate your mind and get you moving in new directions. Love is in the stars and you can make positive changes to your current relationship or meet someone new who will fit into your lifestyle. **★★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pick your battles. Make sure you surround yourself with compatible people who understand what you are aspiring to achieve. Positive support will lead to your success. Don't let negative influences infiltrate your game plan. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Outiders will have a better perspective on what you are up against and what you want than those closest to you. When it comes to your home and family, your vision will be cloudy and your insight totally off-center. Refrain from moving forward if you are uncertain. **★★**

GEMINI (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get involved in activities, events, travel opportunities or any kind of learning process that will help you move in a direction suited to your needs and abilities. A relationship problem is not likely to settle in your favor. Be prepared to give up something you treasure. **★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't limit what you can do because of the responsibilities or demands being put on you by friends, neighbors or relatives. You have to say no if it doesn't fit your plans. Taking on too much will lead to broken promises. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have the ticket to your next destination. Don't let an emotional situation stop you from following through with your plans. A secret plan or involvement will cause more damage than just being upfront and honest. **★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't try to get by without taking note of any rules or regulations. shortsightedness will hold you back in the end. There is too much at stake to make a mistake. **★★★★**

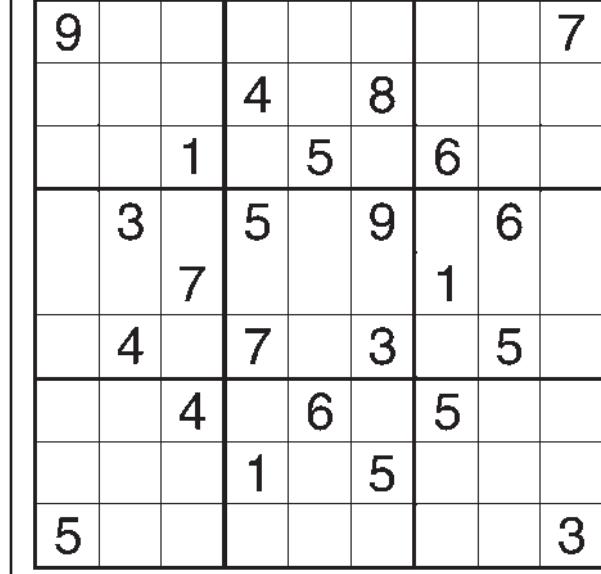
Birthday Baby: You are versatile, disciplined and able to pick and choose to your advantage. You are resilient and execute your intentions masterfully.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	2	8	7	3	4	6	1
8	7	4	6	1	5	9	2	3
6	1	3	4	9	2	5	8	7
2	4	8	3	5	7	6	1	9
1	3	9	2	8	6	7	4	5
5	6	7	1	4	9	8	3	2
3	9	6	5	2	8	1	7	4
7	2	1	9	6	4	3	5	8
4	8	5	7	3	1	2	9	6

Difficulty Level ***

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DOONESBURY IS 40!

Solution: 10 letters

R	D	S	E	L	A	T	M	A	N	O	T	R	U	B
B	O	N	U	S	E	I	I	R	R	E	L	U	R	W
E	S	L	A	C	K	M	E	Y	E	R	W	E	E	A
T	I	L	A	E	U	L	Y	F	F	K	A	S	P	L
H	R	S	O	N	D	A	I	S	D	D	N	H	P	K
U	R	F	P	A	D	L	C	T	E	P	R	O	I	E
D	A	F	N	O	N	Y	P	R	R	E	K	Z	R	
P	H	E	O	A	O	R	E	R	D	R	L	I	E	O
U	X	J	D	U	I	B	Y	L	O	P	C	N	K	S
C	S	E	I	U	R	R	O	E	D	D	N	G	E	E
K	C	T	L	D	R	B	E	N	E	U	L	C	N	
E	I	R	R	A	K	T	V	E	R	O	H	C	P	T
R	M	A	G	S	K	O	O	B	W	O	H	S	T	H
C	O	M	M	E	R	O	A	T	E	C	I	L	A	
B	C	S	(Y)	A	L	E	D	I	T	O	R	I	A	L

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FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR (Korean Speaking)

Applicants must have a minimum of 1 year work experience in the hospitality field. MUST be able to read, write and speak Korean. Must be able to work A, B & C shifts as well as weekends and holidays.

PIC Employment Applications are available at the Security Desk and must be submitted no later than February 25, 2011.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: Feb. 4, 2011

POSITION: Accounting Supervisor/
Assistant Manager

CLOSE DATE: Feb. 11, 2011

SALARY: \$6.00 - \$7.50/per hour

Job Qualification: Graduate from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in accounting or a closely related field and three (3) years of professional accounting experience with supervisory experience required. Knowledge of Opera System preferred. CPA strongly recommended but not required.

OPEN DATE: Feb. 4, 2011

POSITION: Prim/Lifeguard

CLOSE DATE: Feb. 11, 2011

SALARY: \$5.05/per hour

Job Qualification: High School graduate or equivalent and First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.

OPEN DATE: Feb. 4, 2011

POSITION: Water Park Cashier

CLOSE DATE: Feb. 11, 2011

SALARY: \$5.05/per hour

Job Qualification: High School graduate or equivalent and one (1) year of cashier (or related field) and customer service experience required.

OPEN DATE: Feb. 4, 2011

POSITION: Pastry Chef/Baker

CLOSE DATE: Feb. 11, 2011

SALARY: \$6.00 - \$6.50/per hour

Job Qualification: High School graduate with culinary degree/diploma or equivalent, and one (1) year working experience as a pastry baker required.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Office at (670) 234-5900.

Employment application form are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE MATTER OF] FCD GU
JOHN E. DUEÑAS JR.,] Civil Action
BRANDON E. DUEÑAS,] No. 11-0060
and TRISHA E. DUEÑAS,] FCD
minor children,] NOTICE
GLENDA E. DUEÑAS,] OF
Petitioner.] HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
Petitioner, Glenda E. Duenas, has
petitioned the above Court to appoint
her as the guardian of the person and
estate of John E. Duenas Jr., Brandon
E. Duenas and Trisha E. Duenas,
minor children.

The hearing on this petition has
been set before the Superior Court,
Saipan, Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands for the **17th**
day of February, 2011 at 10:30 am.
Or as soon thereafter as the matter
can be heard.

Any person who has objection to the
petition may file his or her objection with
the Superior Court at any time before the
hearing, or may appear at the time set
for hearing to present such objection or
interest in the above-captioned matter.

SO ORDERED this 7th day of
February, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

XINZHEN H.] FCD-DI
CHOLLYMAY] CIVIL ACTION
Petitioner,] NO. 10-0557
vs.] SUMMONS
ERNERIO E.] FOR
CHOLLYMAY] PUBLICATION
Respondent.]
TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and
notified to file any answer you wish to
make to the Complaint, a copy of which
is on file with the court, within thirty (30)
days after service of the Summons
upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy
of your answer to the Petitioner whose
address is P.O. Box 502592 Saipan MP
96950 as soon as practical after filing
your answer or sending it to the Clerk of
Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed
with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe,
Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for
you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk
of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is
not necessary for you to appear personally
until further notice. If you fail to file and
answer in accordance with this summons,
judgment by default may be taken against
you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2011.

/s/ Clerk of Court

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

that

Find today's solution in this section

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

LeBron gets 41, and Heat top Pacers



MIAMI (AP)—With LeBron James on the bench, the Indiana Pacers quickly took command.

Unfortunately for them, he returned.

The league's two-time reigning MVP had 41 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists, Chris Bosh added 19 points and the Miami Heat rallied from a 14-point deficit to beat the Indiana Pacers 117-112 on Tuesday night for their seventh straight victory.

Miami held Indiana to 28 percent shooting in the fourth quarter, giving up only 15 points after yielding a 97 in the first three periods, and saw Mario Chalmers force Dahntay Jones into a key 5-second violation with 8.9 seconds remaining.

James took care of the rest, and Miami moved within a half-game of idle Boston for the Eastern Conference's best record.

"We figured it out in the fourth quarter," James said. "Held them to 15 points and we executed."

In his last 20 games, James is averaging 29.6 points, 8.6 rebounds and 7.5 assists. Not coincidentally, the Heat are 17-3 in those contests.

"I'll tell you what, he's playing MVP-like basketball on both ends of the court," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He had a motor tonight that did not fatigue. It was amazing."

James had 26 points in the first half, sending one dunk through the net and accidentally off Dwyane Wade's head—"My bad," James said later—then going on a tear in the final 2 minutes where he turned what was a 66-52 deficit into a 66-63 game going into halftime.

James went on the attack—outrunning Danny Granger in transition for one dunk, flashing out of the high post and taking a pass from Chalmers for another, then converting a spinning layup while getting fouled.

"We would have been up by 40 if it wasn't for him," Granger said. "He was unconscious."

In the end, Miami needed every bit of his heroics.

"The best player in the world played at his best in his own building," said Pacers interim coach Frank Vogel, who fell to 4-1 since taking over on the Indiana sideline. "It's tough to beat."

Wade scored 17 and Chalmers added 16 for Miami, which moved five games ahead of second-place Atlanta in the Southeast Division.

"You don't have to be awesome every night," Wade said. "You have to find a way to help your ballclub win and we were able to do that."

Roy Hibbert scored 20 points and added 10 rebounds for Indiana. Granger scored 19 and Tyler Hansbrough added 18 for the Pacers.

Indiana was shooting better than 60 percent at one point in the second half, and was at 57 percent entering the final quarter. But the Pacers shot 5 for 18 in the fourth, including one dreadful stretch that gave the Heat life.

Indiana missed nine straight shots over a span of nearly 6 1/2 minutes, but Granger's layup with 51.9 seconds remaining—which snapped the drought—got the Pacers within 111-110.



AP
Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) shoots as Indiana Pacers' Danny Granger (33) looks on in the first quarter during an NBA basketball game in Miami, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011.

They needed a stop, and couldn't deliver.

Mike Miller missed a 3-pointer, but Bosh grabbed the offensive rebound to extend the possession and James eventually wound up connecting from 17 feet with 14.1 seconds left for a 113-110 Heat lead.

"A shootout for three quarters, both teams scoring the ball, making highlight plays ... and scoring with relative ease," Spoelstra said. "Finally we made a stand in the fourth quarter."

Darren Collison scored 15 points, Josh McRoberts added 12 and Jones scored 11 for Indiana, which was trying to join Boston and Dallas as teams that beat Miami twice this season.

The Heat spoke both Monday and pregame Tuesday about wanting to avenge a 93-77 home loss to the Pacers on Nov. 22. It easily was their worst home defeat of the season - considering the 16-point margin in that game exceeded the 13-point margin of their other four losses in Miami combined.

Words didn't translate into play. At least, not for much of the night, they didn't.

With James on the court in the opening two quarters, Miami outscored Indiana by 11. Without him, the Heat were outscored by 14 - and it happened quickly.

James only got one break in the opening half, a 3-minute, 35-second rest at the start of the second quarter. And Indiana outscored Miami 18-4

in that stretch to turn a 33-29 deficit into a 45-37 lead by the time James came back into the game.

It took until 4:34 remained in the fourth for Miami to get back on top, coming when Erick Dampier slammed in the rebound of a miss by Wade for a 106-105 edge - the first Heat lead since the opening 2 minutes of the second quarter.

The Pacers didn't lead again.

"If we want greatness, greatness is consistency," Spoelstra said. "And we're not there yet."

Grizzlies 105, Thunder 101, OT

At Oklahoma City, Zach Randolph had 31 points and 14 rebounds, and Tony Allen scored a season-high 27 while harassing NBA scoring leader Kevin Durant as Memphis beat Oklahoma City.

Durant had 31 points and 11 rebounds, but got off just one shot in overtime and also had a key turnover in the final 20 seconds with the Thunder down by three.

Russell Westbrook added 21 points and 11 assists but also tied his season-high with eight turnovers for Oklahoma City, which lost for the first time in six overtime games this season.

Spurs 100, Pistons 89

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Tony Parker had 19 points and seven assists as San Antonio held off Detroit.

DeJuan Blair added 18 points

and 12 rebounds for San Antonio, which improved its NBA-best record to 43-8. Manu Ginobili scored 13 points for the Spurs, and Tim Duncan contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Will Bynum scored 12 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter for Detroit.

Blair's double-double was his second in a row and seventh since Jan. 1.

Magic 101, Clippers 85

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 22 points and 20 rebounds, and Jameer Nelson added 17 points, including going 4 for 5 from 3-point range, as Orlando used a second-half surge to get past Los Angeles Clippers.

Howard recorded his fifth 20-20 game this season.

Baron Davis led the Clippers with a season-high 25 points, Ike Diogu added 18 and Blake Griffin had 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Timberwolves 112, Rockets 108

At Houston, Kevin Love set a Minnesota record with his 38th consecutive double-double, scoring 20 points and grabbing 14 rebounds.

Love passed Kevin Garnett (2006) for the team's double-double record. Love's streak is now the longest since Moses Malone had 44 in a row during the 1982-83 season with Philadelphia. Utah's John Stockton also had a 37-game streak of double-doubles in 1989.

Wayne Ellington added 18 points for the Timberwolves, who snapped a 13-game losing streak to the Rockets dating to January 2007. Minnesota played without starters F Michael Beasley (sprained left ankle) and C Darko Milicic (strained left hip flexor).

Kevin Martin and Courtney Lee scored 23 points apiece for the Rockets, who were outrebounded 51-31.

76ers 117, Hawks 83

At Atlanta, Elton Brand scored 13 of his 17 points in the first half as Philadelphia jumped out to a 20-point lead in the opening period and cruised to a win over Atlanta.

Louis Williams had 20 points to lead six Philadelphia scorers in double figures. Thaddeus Young and Jodie Meeks each had 16.

Josh Smith, the only Atlanta player to log at least 30 minutes, had 16 points. Damien Wilkins had 12 points and Marvin Williams had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Bucks 92, Raptors 74

At Milwaukee, John Salmons returned to the starting lineup for the first time in three weeks and scored 17 points to lead Milwaukee past Toronto.

Corey Maggette added 16 points and nine rebounds for Milwaukee, which snapped its four-game losing streak.

Toronto lost its 10th straight road game. Andrea Bargnani scored 23 points and DeMar DeRozan finished with 18 points and seven rebounds for the Raptors, who were seeking consecutive victories for the first time since Dec. 3.

NBA BRIEFS

James has 'a lot of business' on All-Star agenda

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James will spend part of his All-Star weekend playing, some of it listening—and if the mood strikes, he might do some talking about the NBA's financial future as well. The Miami Heat forward and two-time reigning NBA MVP reiterated Tuesday that he'll be part of the discussions in Los Angeles later this month about the league's future. The NBA's collective bargaining agreement is set to expire on June 30, and there's widespread concern around the league about a lockout and possibly a disrupted 2011-12 season. "I'm not just going out there for the game," James said. "I'm definitely going out there for business. I will be a part of the labor talks. Even though it's a huge game going on Sunday, there's a lot of business that needs to be taken care of, too." Given how far apart the sides are, it's doubtful that any major progress could be made from the talks in Los Angeles. The NBA has said it expects a loss of about \$350 million this season, and Commissioner David Stern said in October that owners want to reduce player salary costs by about \$750 to \$800 million annually. James is one of the league's highest-paid players, signing a deal with Miami last summer worth roughly \$110 million over six years.

Roy says he's ready to return to Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Guard Brandon Roy is returning to practice and wants to rejoin the Trail Blazers as soon as this weekend, but he'll have to prove himself first. Portland's three-time All-Star had arthroscopic surgery on both of his knees just three weeks ago and coach Nate McMillan says he wants to see Roy at work before making a decision. Portland, coming off a 109-103 victory over the Chicago Bulls, had the day off on Tuesday. They'll practice at home on Wednesday before heading to Toronto for Friday night's game against the Raptors. "I can't really predict the future, but right now they (the knees) feel good," Roy said. "The biggest thing is once I start playing I have to keep them at a level where I feel good about going out there and helping this team." Roy was averaging 16.6 points in 23 games before he was sidelined indefinitely by the team. He says now he is nearly pain free, but still needs to practice at full speed.

Bobcats' Jackson in no mood to discuss tech spree

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Stephen Jackson was in no mood Tuesday to reveal if he thinks he's being unfairly targeted by the officials. He offered no explanation for his latest ejection and no apology, either. What caused the combustible Charlotte Bobcats guard to perk up was when he was asked about being just five games shy of the All-Star break, a six-day technical foul-free oasis away from the game. "I can't wait for the break. I know I need it," Jackson said after practice. "I'm going to go home and see my kids and my family and be around people I know love me and care about me and don't judge me." Jackson has been receiving a lot of judgments lately, mostly negative due to his apparent inability to control his emotions. Jackson's latest outburst resulted in a first-half ejection from Monday night's upset win over Boston for nonstop complaining that resulted in consecutive technical fouls. Jackson, Charlotte's leading scorer at 18.8 points a game, has been called for 13 technicals this season, three shy of an automatic one-game suspension. He's lost about \$180,000 for his various behavioral issues, including an unpaid one-game suspension and a separate \$50,000 fine for berating officials.

Fans celebrate Packers win with final party

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Green Bay Packers fans rejoiced one more time with their cherished Super Bowl champions during a frigid ceremony Tuesday to welcome the Lombardi Trophy back to Lambeau Field after a 14-year absence.

Temperatures were in the single digits as the celebration began, but the Packer diehards were undaunted. Fans in the front row of the stadium traded high-fives with the players and reached out to touch the championship trophy as coach Mike McCarthy marched past with the hardware hoisted high over his head.

The Lombardi Trophy carries special meaning in Green Bay because it's named for the Hall of Fame coach Vince Lombardi, who led the Packers to victories in the first two Super Bowls.

"I will never forget this," said Amanda Lee, 33, of Milwaukee, who wore the No. 12 jersey of quarterback Aaron Rodgers, the Super Bowl MVP. "I got to touch the trophy, but I couldn't actually feel it (because her hands were so cold). I touched Aaron Rodgers' pinky! I'll never wash my hand again."

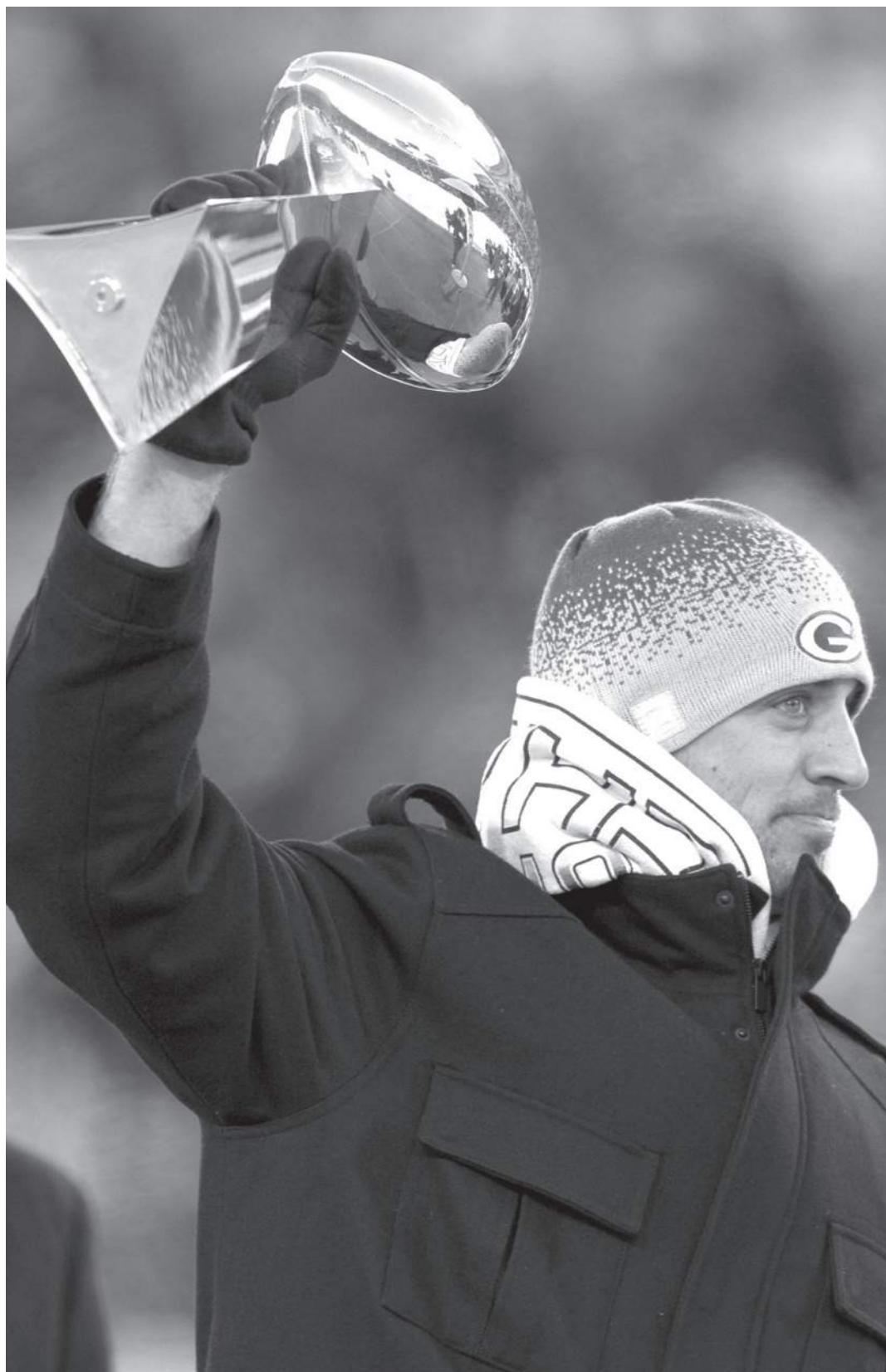
The celebration capped a party that has been going nonstop in Green Bay since Sunday, when the Packers defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25 in Arlington, Texas, to win their fourth Super Bowl title and first since 1996. The ceremony shone a spotlight on the decades-old love affair between the team and the NFL's smallest-market city.

On Sunday night, thousands took to the streets to celebrate amid an explosion of green-and-gold fireworks. On Monday, tens of thousands of hoarse but giddy fans lined the roads from Austin Straubel International Airport to Lambeau to cheer on the team's motorcade as it returned to the stadium.

The 56,000 tickets for the official "Return to Titletown" ceremony Tuesday sold out within hours on Monday. Fans from far and wide were in the stadium's parking lot early Monday morning, grilling brats, throwing down beers and tossing footballs in a final tailgate party — never mind a wind chill of 14 below.

"The weather's fine. I can barely feel it," Ken Hampp, 23, of Appleton, said in the Lambeau parking lot as he sipped a Budweiser, before it froze. "That's my favorite thing about winter. You can just stick your beer in the snow."

The stadium opened two hours before the ceremony. The atmosphere inside was electric as fans watched highlights from the past season on the stadium's giant television screens set to a rousing orchestral soundtrack. The crowd waved world champion flags, erupted into chants of "Go Pack Go!" and danced to House of Pain's "Jump



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers raises the Vince Lombardi Trophy during the "Return to Titletown" celebration Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis. AP

Around" and the Village People's "YMCA."

Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt addressed the crowd from a stage on the 50-yard line, announcing the city would name a street "McCarthy's Way" in keeping with a tradition that calls for the city to name a street after every Super Bowl-winning coach.

Republican Gov. Scott Walker was next, generating a mix of cheers and boos from the crowd. He handed Packers President Mark Murphy a proclamation declaring February Packers month.

But the crowd was more interested in seeing their heroes than their politicians, as evidenced by signs that read "Jordy Nelson, Will You Be My Valentine?" and "Clay Matthews Will You Marry Me?"

Kimberly Zachary, 19, of La Crosse, held a sign that read "Driver Your Smile Makes It All Worth While," referring to veteran wide receiver Donald Driver, whose ever-present grin has helped him emerge as a fan heartthrob.

She said she chose to attend college at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in part because of the Packers.

"It's like going to a school for a boyfriend or girlfriend," Zachary's friend, Kelly Peerendboom, 20, of Tomahawk said. Then she sighed. "I don't think I've ever felt so happy to be part of a team."

When the players finally emerged from the tunnel that leads to the field from their locker room, the crowd erupted, purging 14 years of frustration. The players, bundled up in parkas and stocking caps, strolled along the front row of the stadium on their way to the stage, smiling, pumping their fists and high-fiving everyone who could reach them.

"Just a very special moment," safety Nick Collins told the crowd from the stage. "Something I'll cherish for the rest of my life. I've been chasing this dream for a long, long time, and I'm just glad to be a part of it."

Driver, who injured an ankle in the Super Bowl and couldn't finish the game, seemed overwhelmed by the moment.

"We're Super Bowl champs, baby! All season long, you guys believed. We love you guys so much," he said.

Team officials saved Rodgers for last. With a towel wrapped around his head like a scarf, Rodgers yelled into the microphone, "What's up, Titletown?" The crowd responded with a roar.

"We did it together! We brought that title home! We love you!" Rodgers said. "I tell you what, Green Bay, we're going to be right here next year doing the exact same thing!"

Titans coach Munchak fires coordinator, 2 coaches



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Titans coach Mike Munchak has fired offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger along with two other assistants as he starts to remake his coaching staff a day after taking over the top job.

Heimerdinger, who is continuing cancer treatment after diagnosed in November, confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday that he had been fired. The Titans released a statement a couple hours later that Munchak also told defensive assistant Rayna Stewart and offensive assistant Richie Wessman that they will not be retained.

"It's never easy to be fired," Heimerdinger said. "He has to do what's good for the Titans, and Munch will do what's best for the Titans. I appreciate my time here, but it's never easy to be fired."

The Titans gave Munchak the freedom to keep or hire anyone he wants and he promised changes when he was introduced on Monday. He let go the coordinator who was the second coach interviewed to replace Jeff Fisher. Munchak said it wasn't an easy move involving a man he respects

as an innovative offensive mind and for how he has fought cancer.

"We have worked well through the years, but I believe we need to go in a different direction at offensive coordinator," Munchak said. "This wasn't about his health—he is feeling good—it is a change of direction for us. This is not something that I take lightly and I wish him and his family the best."

The Titans also defended themselves for firing a man with cancer. Senior executive vice president Steve Underwood said in the team's statement that the Titans immediately offered to extend Heimerdinger's contract when he diagnosed. Heimerdinger was under contract for 2011.

"We will honor Mike's existing agreement with our club and continue to wish him a complete recovery," Underwood.

This now gives Munchak eight openings to fill on his coaching staff. Fisher had fired defensive coordinator Chuck Cecil last month, while the defensive line coach, running backs coach and wide receivers assistant all left for other jobs. Former teammate Bruce Matthews, now an assistant in

Houston, is expected to be Munchak's top target to fill his old job with the offensive line.

The news brought almost instant reaction Tuesday.

Titans safety Michael Griffin wrote on Twitter that, "People thought it was a joke when I said no one is safe."

This was Heimerdinger's second stint as offensive coordinator with Tennessee. He helped Steve McNair earn co-MVP of the NFL honors in 2003 and was part of three playoff teams in his first five seasons before leaving for the same job with the Jets in 2005. Fisher brought him back in 2008 after two seasons in Denver.

The Titans set a franchise-low with 12 sacks allowed in his first season back. The Titans racked up the second-most yards rushing in franchise history in 2009 when Chris Johnson set the NFL record for yards from scrimmage with 2,509 while earning the AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year award.

Heimerdinger kept coaching and didn't miss a game after being diagnosed with a rare cancer the day before Thanksgiving. Fisher extended his co-

ordinator's contract before the season ended, and Heimerdinger said Tuesday his health played no role in the decision with his prognosis good even with two rounds of treatment remaining.

"This is strictly Munch thinks this is best for the Titans," Heimerdinger said.

The Titans' offense struggled in 2010, ranking 27th in the NFL in total yards per game (302.1) and 25th in yards passing (194.2). Johnson couldn't help the rushing attack much with just 107.9 yards averaged per game (17th overall).

Worst, the Titans rank last in time of possession, holding the ball just 25 minutes, 54 seconds per game. Tennessee was limited by injuries at quarterback, including the season-ending thumb injury to Vince Young on Nov. 21.

Asked about his offensive philosophy Monday, Munchak said the Titans have to stay on the field no matter what they do on offense.

"We struggled last year to stay on the field as an offense. I'm stating the obvious. But we need to find a way, whatever that offense is, whatever that system is, we have to make first downs and stay out there," Munchak said.

Sapong elected to OAA Council

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics secretary/treasurer Robin Sapong was elected to the powerful Oceania Athletics Association Council during the 2001 OAA Congress held on Friday in Australia.

Sapong was one of the seven individuals voted to serve to the OAA Council from 2011 to 2015. The council is an influential body, as it makes key decisions for the development of the sport in the Oceania region.

Joining Sapong in the group are Norfolk Island's Geoff Gardner, Fiji's Albert Miller, New Zea-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Athletics' Robin Sapong, third right, joins members of the OAA Council for a group photo after an election in New South Wales, Australia.

land's Trevor Spittle, Tahiti's Tita Juventin, Australia's Dallas O'Brien, and the Federated States of Micronesian's Jim Tobin. Gardner was also re-elected OAA president, while the vice president, secretary, and treasurer have yet to be decided.

With Sapong and Tobin mak-

ing it to the OAA Council, Micronesia has two representatives on the body for the first time.

Witnessing the election of Sapong and company were representatives of 20 regular member federations of OAA, including NMA president Ramon Tebuteb, and two associate ones.

Also present at the OAA Congress was International Association of Athletics Federation president Lamine Diack of Senegal, IAAF general secretariat senior manager Jee Isram, OAA life members Margaret Mahony and Arthur Eustace, and Oceania Athletics Coaches Association general secretary Peter Barrett.

After the congress, Diack and the representatives of OAA members officially opened "Oceania House" at Varsity Lakes in Gold Coast, joining mayor and athletics legend Ron Clarke in the ceremony.

The facility housed the centralized administration office of OAA, IAAF Regional Development Centre, and the IAAF High Performance Training Centre. OAA is the first area association in IAAF to own its headquarters.

50m backstroke record surpassed the old mark made on March 30, 1979. Saipan Swim Club's Jonathan Sakovich owned the two previous marks.

The 8-year-old swimmer's 50m breaststroke record erased the 42.82 seconds Kensuke Kimura tallied on March 5, 2005, while Kang's 50m butterfly mark bested the 40.03 seconds Ryuto Yanai recorded on Dec. 4, 2010.

Two more U8 records fell during the two-day meet with Ryuto Yanai setting marks in the 100m (1:21.99) and 200m (2:50.52) freestyle events. Ryoto

Toda owned both previous records, as he timed in 1:22.58 in the 100m freestyle and on April 3, 2009 and 2:56.89 in the 200m freestyle on May 29, 2009.

Ryuto's older brother, Kaito, made a new mark in the boys' 11 to 12 age group, timing in at 2:54.04 in the 200m breaststroke and eclipsing the 3:02.81 Ryuto Yanai logged on April 4, 2009.

Tan also had one mark shattered in the same age group and event, completing the 200m breaststroke in 2:59.37 and crushing her

MHS 2 finishes atop standings in girls soccer

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

be played that Friday.

The MISO tourney will conclude the following Saturday with the second round of the playoffs starting at 11am. Up to six games may play out on Saturday before a champion is crowned.

Back on Feb. 2, 2011 MHS 2 defeated sister team MHS 1, 2-1 at Oleai field. MHS 2's Elisa Fejeren scored the lone goal in the first half. Then with 10 minutes left in the game MHS 1's Ester Williams scored to tie up the game. Fejeren found herself leading a breakaway in the final three minutes and netted the game-winning goal.

Then following Friday, KHS downed Southern, 1-0, and last Monday MHS 2 bested the Lady Manta Rays, 2-0.

In Monday's game MHS 2's Fejeren scored on a penalty kick as a result of a handball in the first half. Then MHS 2's Lia Rangamar found the back of the net midway through the second half as MHS 2's defense held on for the win.

Tinian High School will also be participating in the MISO double-elimination tourney and will be awarded an automatic third seed.

On Feb. 18, MHS 1 will welcome the dark horse THS squad in the first round of action, followed by KHS challenging Southern. A third game will also

Kimura posted 1:08.58, surpassing the 1:08.96 he made on Oct. 2, 2010.

As for Kimura, he eclipsed two 16-year-old marks and broke two of his own records in the 13 to 14 age group. His 18:14.65 in the 1500m freestyle passed Robert Jordan's 18:32.68 (Aug. 19, 1995), while his 2:25.69 in the 200m IM was better than Joshua Taitano's 2:26.46 (Aug. 19, 1995).

In the 100m backstroke,

CNMI

From Page 28

Nine of the 11 sports listed above were played during the 2006 Micronesian Games, which Saipan hosted. Soccer/football was not on the list, but the CNMI had hosted a couple of regional events in the past 10 years, including the East Asian Football Confederation qualifying match.

Sailing was also excluded in the 2006 Micro Games, but the Commonwealth had held races in the past decade.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

All new marks were courtesy of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members with its most promising swimmer Lukas Kang crushing six age group record, Kensuke Kimura breaking four, Ryuto Yanai shattering two, and Kaito Yanai and Angel Marie Tan smashing one each.

The 8-year-old Kang set new marks in the 200m individual medley (3:08.36), 100m butterfly (1:28.95), 100m backstroke

(1:34.11), 50m breaststroke (48.35 seconds), 50m backstroke (42.82 seconds), and 50m butterfly (40.02 seconds).

Kang broke two of his own marks—the 200m IM and 100m back. His previous record in the U8 200m IM was 3:19.50 made on Dec. 4, 2010, while his 1:34.11 in the 100m backstroke was logged on Oct. 2, 2010.

Kang's 100m butterfly and 50m backstroke records shattered two of the oldest age group marks in the CNMI. His 100m butterfly time eclipsed the 1:39.43 recorded on April 5, 1979, while his

the match would resume with three seconds remaining and RTU in possession. The Cougars returned to the court, but not the Blue Thunders, who opted not to play anymore and instead congratulated the winning team.

At the awards presentation, Cruz was named to the Mythical Five Team along with teammate Julian Bagares and the Cougars'

John Orbeta, Jesse Saitanan, and Daniel Flores.

Before their finals stint, Cruz also posted impressive numbers for the Blue Thunder in their semis sweep of Philippine Merchant Marine School. In Game 1, Cruz drilled 26 points, including a free throw in the last 6.9 seconds that lifted RTU to an 87-84 win. In Game 2, Cruz logged 22

markers and the Blue Thunder won by only a hair, 87-86, after PMMS missed two clutch free throws with no time left on the clock.

After his stint with RTU, Cruz is expected to transfer to Adamson University and play in the Philippine's premier collegiate league—the University Athletics Association of the Philippines.

Then Marianas Elite's Prescott Cabrera will challenge Juan Ogarito in a welterweight fight.

An exhibition youth boxing match is set between P.J. "Lightning" Litulmar and Trench Tech's Josenio "Little Bear" Alvarez.

MMA action will again take center stage when Ben Quinata of Guam's The Pound will debut against Marianas Elie's MaiTai "The Charger" Charley in a lightweight bout.

Then Zalaka's Ben "Out of Gas" Duenas will be pitted against Trench Tech's Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez in a featherweight battle.

A heavyweight clash comes next between Mylo "Alabama" Lassiter (1-0) and Zalaka's Moses "King Kong" Buekis (0-2).

Trench Tech's Ningbo Slice

Cepeda will then take on Kiseisu Warriors' Justin Salas in a light heavyweight fight.

A second anticipated rematch of the evening will feature Marianas Elite's Derrick "El-Piligr" Rangamar (4-8) taking on Trench Tech's Chris "No Luv" Laayug (6-1) in a featherweight battle.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech featherweight Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez (4-0) is listed on the card, but is still looking for an opponent. There are speculations that his opponent may be Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig of Guahan Top Team, but nothing is confirmed.

In addition, light heavyweights Kevin "Yo-G" Tinian and Derick San Nicolas; featherweights Joy Inais Fred and "Badd" Brad Palacios; and bantamweight Jacob Ilo (K-1) are currently on stand by.

JERICHO

From Page 28

argued 4.7 seconds should be left on the clock after the Cougars beat the 24-second shot clock and made a shot.

The game was halted for several minutes as RTU continued to protest. Then finally, the referees decided

out of Counter Shot Guam in a featherweight bout.

Zalaka's Ton Villagomez will face Trench Tech's Tavita Leuta in a featherweight K-1 kickboxing match.

Then Trench Tech's Frank "The Crippler" Atalig will go toe to toe with Counter Shot's Leandro Dalalo in a bantamweight brawl.

Then a lightweight-grappling match is set between Zalaka's Harry Nekafes and Kekai King of Guam's Barrigada BJJ team.

A juicy lightweight rematch featuring John "The Prophet" Moses (0-1) and Danny "The Warrior" Santos (1-0) comes next.

Counter Shot's Eric Aguon will debut against Marianas Elite's Josh Cruz (1-2) in a 140-lb catch-weight bout.

Then Marianas Elite's Prescott Cabrera will challenge Juan Ogarito in a welterweight fight.

An exhibition youth boxing match is set between P.J. "Lightning" Litulmar and Trench Tech's Josenio "Little Bear" Alvarez.

MMA action will again take center stage when Ben Quinata of Guam's The Pound will debut against Marianas Elie's MaiTai "The Charger" Charley in a lightweight bout.

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Trench Tech's Ningbo Slice

Tribune Sports Scores

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	13	.745	—
New York	26	24	.520	11 1/2
Philadelphia	24	27	.471	14
New Jersey	15	37	.288	23 1/2
Toronto	14	38	.269	24 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	38	14	.731	—
Atlanta	33	19	.635	5
Orlando	33	20	.623	5 1/2
Charlotte	22	29	.431	15 1/2
Washington	13	37	.260	24

Central Division

Chicago	34	16	.680	—
Indiana	21	28	.429	12 1/2
Milwaukee	20	30	.400	14
Detroit	19	33	.365	16
Cleveland	8	44	.154	27

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	43	8	.843	—
Dallas	36	15	.706	7

Yesterday's Games

Charlotte	94	Boston	89
L.A. Lakers	93	Memphis	84
Minnesota	104	New Orleans	92
Dallas	99	Cleveland	96
Houston	108	Denver	

33rd Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim



PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Participants in the 9 to 10 age group swim their way to the first half of the 1K race.



Participants in the 1K race at the starting line.

Participants in the 1.3K and 2.5K races head to the waters off Saipan World Resort.



A volunteer watches swimmers head their way to partially submerged World War II tanks.



Saipan Swim Club's Michael Villagomez, left, fixes his goggles, while two other 1K race participants look on.



Saipan Swim Club's Andrew Kimball leads participants in the 33rd Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim in rushing to the waters off Saipan World Resort during last Sunday's race.



Saipan Swim Club's Suzie Kindel removes her goggles, as she heads to the shore.

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru finishes the 1K race first.

Left, Two Tsunami Saipan swimmers move out of the water.

Fans celebrate
Packers win
with final party



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tsunami Saipan swimmers shatter 14 marks



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fourteen records fell during last weekend's 2011 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

Tsunami
SAIPAN

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kensuke Kimura races in the 200m individual medley during last weekend's Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Jericho makes Mythical 5 of collegiate caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES ABROAD
Former CNMI Men's Nationals member Jericho Cruz was named to the Mythical Five of the 18th National Capital Region Athletic Association men's basketball league in the Philippines.

Cruz played for Rizal Technological University in the NCRAA league, one of the collegiate basketball competitions in the Philippines, and led the team to the finals this season.

In Game 2 of the best-of-three title series, Cruz scored 27 points to lift the Blue Thunder to a 78-75 victory against Colegio de Sta. Monica and force a deciding Game 3.

Cruz's 27-point output in Game 2 redeemed him from a sub-par performance in Game 1 where the CNMI swingman scored only 12 points. Cruz's Blue Thunder lost the opening game by only a point, 84-85.

In Game 2, the 6'1" player scored 10 points in the fourth quarter, including two crucial free throws in the last 12 seconds of the match to help the Blue Thunder force a winner-take-all match.

In Game 3, Cruz also finished in double figures with 14 points, making two important free throws that kept RTU in the game, 85-86, 28.7 seconds to go in the finale. Before his free throws, Cruz played decoy and fed teammate Kenneth Balasote for an undergoal stab that gave RTU an 83-81 lead, with less than two minutes left in the match.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Jericho Cruz, seen here dribbling out of the defense of a PATTs player, led Rizal Technological University to the finals of National Capital Region Athletics Association in the Philippines and was named to the Mythical Five.

However, despite Cruz's heroics, the Blue Thunder suffered a sorry loss at the hands of the Cougars, 89-86.

The Cougars' title win was marred by controversy due to a technical error on the clock. RTU

See JERICHO on Page 26

CNMI proposes 11 events for 2017 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI plans to have 11 events for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White during the NMASA meeting last week said that in a draft of bid papers he is preparing, he included athletics, soccer, golf, swimming, tennis, canoe racing, beach and indoor volleyball, baseball, sailing, and triathlon in the proposed events for the quadrennial meet

the CNMI is hoping to host five years from now.

The bid papers for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games must be completed by the end of this month,

as it will be submitted to the Pacific Games Council next month.

With the deadline for the submission of bid papers fast approaching, NMASA is seeking the assistance of local sports federations to make sure all the

necessary documentations are complete and will back up the CNMI's bid.

White asked local federations for a letter attesting that concerned sports groups have the capability to host their respective competitions. The NMASA head also requested that each local sports group list the international federations they are affiliated with.

White added the CNMI are required to list international sporting events, which the Commonwealth has hosted within the past 10 years. The list should

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ROP 10: Bad Intentions on March 11

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REPORTER



Trench Tech Purebred Promotions is gearing up for Rites of Passage 10: Bad Intentions that takes place on March 11 in the Royal Taga Ball Room of the Saipan World Resort.

ROP 10 will kick off Trench Tech's slew of mixed martial arts event for 2011. Tickets cost just \$20 for all seats and off-island fighters from the United States, Guam, and Tinian are expected to make it over to compete.

The main event will feature a Guam versus Saipan welterweight bout preceded by a U.S. versus Saipan super fight.

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Tarkong